

East Lothian Health & Social Care Partnership



Community Update 1

Community Hospitals and Care Homes Provision

As people age, they often have multiple long-term conditions, and delivering care has become increasingly more challenging and more complex. How we organise and deliver health and social care services is evolving rapidly, and we find ourselves working with many partners across different sectors. The Covid pandemic has emphasised just how vital the work is that we do, and it is now more important than ever that we work together as a team to deliver care to those that need it across East Lothian.

Covid highlights our need to transform how we deliver care. We must change the way we work to make it more relevant for people's needs today, and make sure we can deliver more positive outcomes for the population of East Lothian as its expectations of care change.

This update on the evolving work surrounding the future delivery of care to older people in East Lothian focuses on the work we are doing to review and assess how our community hospitals and care homes will support care delivery in the future.

It provides a summary of the work carried out to date, where we are now, and an indication of likely timescales for what we hope will see a transformation in how, when and where we deliver care.

[Where we are now](#)

The East Lothian Integration Joint Board (IJB) approved a paper on the [Reprovision of Belhaven and Edington Hospitals and Eskgreen and Abbey Care Homes in December 2018](#).

The paper reported the results of a year-long engagement with community representatives, staff, individual stakeholders, service-users, carers, providers and partners in East Lothian

Council, NHS Lothian, and the Third Sector. Noting the results of the consultation, the IJB issued [Direction 12d](#) to initiate development work.

Work began in 2019 to better understand existing capacity and the wider impacts of providing the care models discussed with stakeholders, and how this might affect future service delivery across East Lothian.

We continued to work with stakeholders, but this was interrupted by the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and to date has only been completed in part.

The Health and Social Care landscape has changed

Since the publication of the December 2018 paper, significant issues have arisen for East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership (ELHSCP)

- Covid-19 has had a huge impact on health and social care nationally and locally. How will it be delivered? How will it be funded? It will also have impacts on the future design of and regulatory requirements for care accommodation, the delivery of care at home, and the role of technology in future health care delivery.
- The Covid-19 double vaccination programme for the people of East Lothian will continue with booster vaccinations. This will mean a programme of repeat vaccinations alongside the winter flu vaccination programme.
- The Care Inspectorate recently announced a [national consultation on the future design of care homes](#) and how new approaches to design will influence regulation in the future
- The Scottish Government's response to the recommendations set out in the [Independent Review of Adult Social Care](#) published in January 2021 gives clear indications that there will be major changes to deal with when a new National Care Service (NCS) is formed. Consultation on the NCS runs from August 2021 to the end of October 2021
- We have had significant workforce and recruitment pressures from the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, and these pressures will continue. The impact of this is still emerging as we move out of the pandemic and our first year after Brexit.

Looking ahead

The impact of these challenges are still not clear and we now have to fully consider the constraints imposed by them. It is clear that as we move forward, there will be long-lasting impacts on our workforce, future recruitment, funding, and how we deliver residential care, and care in the community.

Hospitals and Care Homes Provision Change Board

In light of these significant changes, the IJB has to revisit the original objectives of the Reprovisioning project and adjust its scope to take account of these new challenges.

In June 2021, the IJB requested the formation of an East Lothian Hospitals and Care Homes Provision Change Board to revisit and oversee IJB Direction 12d. In light of these significant

changes, the IJB has to revisit the original objectives of the Reprovisioning project and adjust its scope to take account of these new challenges.

Peter Murray (IJB Chair) is chair of the Change Board with Alison MacDonald (IJB Chief Officer) as vice Chair. The Change Board has met four times since its formation, and has set up three working groups to lead on:

- Communications and Engagement
- Capacity and Planning.
- Finance and Capital.

About the Change Board

The Change Board and working groups include ELHSCP officers and the IJB service-user representative. Its key aims are to progress work to:

- Deliver high quality care and support to East Lothian's current and future older population, at the right time and in the right place
- Ensure services for older people are sustainable and able to adapt to the current financial climate, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and national policy
- Engage with communities within East Lothian to ensure services deliver equitably across our diverse population.

We anticipate that the Change Board will present an updated set of outputs and recommendations to the East Lothian IJB by winter 2022/23 about Direction 12d.

Throughout the process, the Change Board will engage with key stakeholders to gather feedback and views.

In 2022, consultation will take place at a greater level of detail. However, it is difficult to provide a more detailed timetable at this stage, given the work on recovery from the impacts of Covid-19 and the potential for further levels of lockdown, the ongoing and proposed extension of the Covid -19 vaccination programmes, the winter flu vaccination programme and inevitable winter pressures. These together cause strain on an already stretched group of services.

Peter Murray, Chair of the Change Board, says:

'It's great to get this work underway, and we all know that the impact of Covid will mean that the focus now has to change.'

'We intend to keep everyone who would like to be involved up to date through regular communication. We will reach out to stakeholders across the whole of East Lothian to share and engage, but given the necessity to change the original scope, I feel it important to re-engage with a number of communities involved previously.'

'It will be a long process – nothing will happen overnight. The key thing to remember is that it's not about doing things quickly; it's about getting things right.'

Proposed Timeline for Communication and Pre-Consultation Engagement

Date	Proposed Workstream and Engagement Activity
Summer 2021	Planning data collection and review period begins
October 2021	Issue update and briefing to East Lothian Communities
Autumn 2021	Engagement with Staff, Health and Wellbeing Associations and ongoing consultation
Winter 2021/22	Initial data findings reported to Change Board
Spring 2022	Community consultation process begins
Late Summer 2022	Update report on consultation presented to Change Board
Autumn 2022	Final report and proposed recommendations presented to Change Board
Winter 2022/23	Final report and proposed recommendations presented to IJB

Want to get involved?

If you are interested in following this project, please:

- Sign up for future newsletters
- Let us know if you have any thoughts, suggestions or want to express an opinion
- Visit our webpage:
https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210558/social_care_and_health/12654/community_hospitals_and_care_homes_project

All you need to do is email us at elhscp@eastlothian.gov.uk

If you don't have access to a computer and would like hard copies of any of the documents cited in this newsletter, please:

- Phone 01620 827 755 or
- Write to Jane Ogden Smith, John Muir House Brewery Park Haddington EH41 3HA.

We can also supply this document in other languages and formats on request.