

Interim IIA Report - Proposal to reduce funding to local sensory loss organisations.

Each of the numbered sections below must be completed
Please state if the IIA is interim or final – Interim.

1. Title of proposal

Proposal to reduce funding to local sensory loss organisations.

2. What will change as a result of this proposal?

General Managers from across the Health and Social Care Partnership have been tasked with making proposals in terms of efficiencies on their budgets over the coming year. The reduction in funding will be approx. £13,000 for Deaf Action and £4,000 for Sight Scotland.

3. Briefly describe public involvement in this proposal to date and planned

The organisations impacted by the proposal for a reduction in funding took part in the scoping meeting for this IIA. ELHSCP are working in collaboration with organisation to look at how the service can be redesigned with the minimal impact to the community. Users of services have not commented at this stage. Further discussion and engagement will take place following any decision on the proposal by ELHSCP Integrated Joint Board.

- Deaf Action.
- Carers of East Lothian.
- Sight Scotland (operating name of Royal Blind).

We have also carried out engagement with the Deaf Community in East Lothian for the IJB Strategic Plan 2023-35, the Deaf Action Social Work Service (March 2024) and the East Lothian BSL Plan (March 2024).

4. Is the proposal considered strategic under the Fairer Scotland Duty?

Yes.

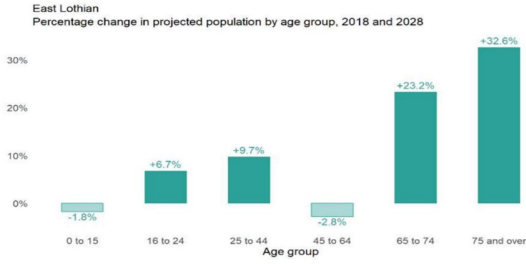
5. Date of IIA

13 March 2024 from 1pm – 3pm over MS Teams.

6. Who was present at the IIA? Identify facilitator, lead officer, report writer and any employee representative present and main stakeholder (e.g. Council, NHS)

Name	Job Title	Date of IIA training
Ogden-Smith, Jane (Facilitator)	Equalities and Engagement Officer, ELHSCP	Sept 2009, Dec 2022
Christine Johnston (Lead Officer)	Service Manager for Strategic Planning and Commissioning, ELHSCP	
Paul Currie	Interim General Manager for Strategic Integration, ELHSCP	
Jessica Wade	Chief Executive, Carers of East Lothian	
Liz Jones	Deputy CEO, Deaf Action	
Colin Hilditch	Head of Community Services, Sight Scotland	
Neil Munro	Project Support Manager, ELHSCP	Sept 2023

7. Evidence available at the time of the IIA

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal														
Data on populations in need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Lothian Joint Strategic Needs Assessment • East Lothian by numbers 	<p>Our population is changing. People are living longer</p> <p>Population Over the next 10 years, population growth will rise in East Lothian, especially in the over 65 year age group. See Graph 1 below.</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>East Lothian: Percentage change in projected population by age group, 2018 and 2028</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Age group</th> <th>Percentage change</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0 to 15</td> <td>-1.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16 to 24</td> <td>+6.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25 to 44</td> <td>+9.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>45 to 64</td> <td>-2.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65 to 74</td> <td>+23.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>75 and over</td> <td>+32.6%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Our population has grown at a higher rate in areas of higher deprivation, specifically within the 1st quintile (most deprived) to the 3rd quintile while the population has decreased in areas of lowest deprivation (4th and 5th quintiles).</p> <p>From 2018 to 2043, East Lothian's population is predicted to increase by a further 12.8% reaching a peak of 121,743 and will grow at faster rate than Scotland as a whole.</p> <p>Our resources are dwindling due to the impact of national austerity measures on public services, Brexit and recovery from Covid. We no longer have the ability to make capital investments. This, together with evidence from engagement, leads to placing much greater emphasis and resource into early intervention, intermediate care and other forms of support.</p>	Age group	Percentage change	0 to 15	-1.8%	16 to 24	+6.7%	25 to 44	+9.7%	45 to 64	-2.8%	65 to 74	+23.2%	75 and over	+32.6%
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Data on service uptake/access	As above															

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
<p>Data on socio-economic disadvantage e.g. low income, low wealth, material deprivation, area deprivation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ONS Facts and Figures about people in East Lothian • NRS 2011 Census (out of date and awaiting information from NRS from 2022 Census) • Scottish Government Equalities Evidence Finder (by extrapolation) 	<p>Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation</p> <p>East Lothian consists of 6 wards and 132 data zones, of which 8 data zones are in the 20% most deprived of Scotland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People living in the most deprived areas are statistically more likely to experience health inequalities. This means lower life expectancy, higher rates of disease, more long-term illness. • People living in the least deprived areas have a life expectancy 8 years (males) and 4.8 years (females) higher than those in the most deprived areas • The areas of highest deprivation in East Lothian are largely to the west of the county specifically in areas in Musselburgh, Tranent and Prestonpans. There are also pockets of deprivation in Haddington and Dunbar. • Around 95% of people in East Lothian living in the community live within an urban setting and 5% live in more rural settings.
<p>Data on equality outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ONS Facts and Figures about people in East Lothian • NRS 2011 Census (out of date and awaiting information from NRS from 2022 Census) • Scottish Government 	<p>Our information about BME people living in East Lothian is poor as we are still awaiting information on this from the 2022 NRS Scottish Census (these are expected in the summer of 2024). We do know that we have Ukrainian and Syrian refugees, a Polish community, a South Asian community, migrant workers and asylum seekers in East Lothian. As the council does</p>

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
	Equalities Evidence Finder (by extrapolation)	<p>not facilitate a local equality network, we rely on statistics about use of translation and interpretation services and ethnicity recorded in education statistic to try to understand more about these communities, how many there are and where. Our own records show little uptake of our services by people in these groups and we are reaching out to the South Asian, Polish and Ukrainian communities to understand more about potential barriers to accessing services.</p> <p>We have also been engaging with the Deaf community around their needs for support from specialist workers who sign (BSL).</p>
Research/literature evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Sign Language (Scotland) Act 2015 • British Sign Language Act 2022 • See Hear Guidance • Alliance Scottish Sensory Hub • East Lothian BSL Plan 2018-24 • ELHSCP engagement with Deaf 	<p>Deaf people experience many barriers to services and commitments made in the East Lothian BSL Plan regarding making service information accessible through the delivery of BSL videos have not been met. Deaf people experience barriers to communication across all public sector and health settings. This stems partly from the failure to provide BSL interpretation at appointments and admissions to hospital and partly from a mistaken reliance on providing written material and notes which many Deaf people cannot read as English is not their first language.</p> <p>There is better support for people who lose their hearing and for people with</p>

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
	community feedback reports	<p>visual impairments, due to much greater capacity for digital interaction and more understanding of the need for Braille and audio files.</p> <p>There is little information on the needs of Deaf-Blind people, beyond knowledge gained from the services that support them.</p>
Public/patient/client experience information		
Evidence of inclusive engagement of people who use the service and involvement findings	See engagement information above.	
Evidence of unmet need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRS 2011 Census 	<p>There is a lot of evidence around unmet need for Deaf people, less about people who have lost hearing, are registered blind, have sight impairments or are Deaf-Blind. Most of this information is personal records held by assessors and service-providers and is not in the public domain.</p> <p>The most recent census information we have dates from 2011, although we hope that NRS will be making information available at this level later this year. Even so, it will be two years out of date.</p>
Good practice guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Sign Language (BSL): national plan 2023 to 2029 - gov.scot (www.gov.scot) • A Fairer Scotland for Older People 	<p>There is a new Scottish Government Strategy for British Sign Language, 2023 to 2029, aiming for Scotland to be the best place in the world for BSL signers to live, work, visit and learn. British Sign Language (BSL): national</p>

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health, Sensory Loss and Human Rights – A Transition Report calling for Sensory Literate Services • Alliance Scottish Sensory Hub 	<p>plan 2023 to 2029 - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)</p> <p>Much of this work centres on the barriers that people with sensory impairment face when trying to access everyday services, statutory and non-statutory, and the resulting sense of exclusion, which can impact badly on mental health. They are keen to raise awareness of sensory impairment issues amongst practitioners and to promote inclusive communication and other good practice that supports people with sensory impairments to access services equitably and maintains their human rights.</p>
Carbon emissions generated/reduced data	n/a	
Environmental data	n/a	
Risk from cumulative impacts	n/a	
Other (please specify)	n/a	
Additional evidence required	n/a	

8. In summary, what impacts were identified and which groups will they affect?

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights	Affected populations
<p>Positive</p> <p>The IIA Group could not identify any positives to the proposal and noted that this would be in contradiction to some of ELHSCP's/East Lothian IJB's strategic objectives expressed in the IJB Strategic Plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group that will be impacted the most is those with the protected characteristic of disability, including physical or learning

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights	Affected populations
<p>Strategic Objectives of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Services that are Sustainable and Proportionate to Need. • Deliver New Models of Community Provision, Working Collaboratively with Communities. • Enable People to have More Choice and Control and Provide Care Closer to Home. • Keep People Safe from Harm. • Address Health Inequalities <p>The proposal to reduce funding to each service will have a negative impact and if services were reduced there would be no alternative for people to get the support that they need and in their own language. It's important to recognise that these services understand and support people with particular issues around schooling, education and parental control, who often have a sensory impairment themselves. They provide the bridge between the council and the community and try to make sure those with sensory impairment have an accessible service.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • disability, sight or hearing loss; • Carers • Children, young people and care experienced people of any age • People who do not have English as a first language, do not speak or read English, or have a low level of literacy • Deaf people who use BSL • People in geographical areas or communities (for example, rural communities, peripheral communities in towns) • People living on a low income/socio-economic impact (Fairer Scotland) • Veterans (Armed Forces Covenant) • People living with effects of trauma (for example, from adverse childhood experiences, people experiencing/recovering from physical or mental abuse, recovering from serious accidents, and victims of crime)
<p>Negative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the protected characteristic groups and other vulnerable people who have sensory loss will be affected by a reduction in support. Getting access close to their location will be more difficult. People will need to travel further distances to receive the support needed. Travel can be seen as a barrier and people may choose not to travel. • People with sensory loss tend to come with dual sensory loss along with other comorbidities 	<p>All vulnerable groups listed above, older people, people with disabilities, carers, LGBT+, communities, ELHSCP staff. Also, considerations under Fairer Scotland Duty and impact of intersectionality.</p>

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights	Affected populations
<p>therefore the impact of reducing funding across a number of support services impacts greatly on them and their carers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with sensory impairment (Deafness, hearing loss, sight loss or blindless) are specifically classed as having a disability and any change to service will impact on them and potentially may be discriminatory. • East Lothian has an ageing population and hearing loss can come with age adding more pressure on the system. • Impacts on the ability to provide an outreach service for those people in a care home environment as well as at within their own home. • Sight Scotland provide educational support in schools and early years provision and any funding reductions may impact on the ability to provide this service (because they are using their own voluntary funds to fund the service for adults). • Deaf people tend to often marry other deaf people and then that highlights issues with raising children. Access to the children's school and how parents make sure that they're informed on what's going on at school may all be impacted on. • If services have to be reduced, where would people go to get the support that they need and in their own language? It's important to recognise that these services understand and support people with issues around schooling, education and parental control who often have a sensory impairment themselves. They provide the bridge between the council and the community and do what they can to make sure those with sensory impairment have an accessible service. • When there's going to be less available in the community, it's even more important that people are able to access that support to make sure that they are having their voice heard, their rights met and fulfilled. 	

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights	Affected populations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70% of the funding from Edinburgh HSCP goes towards the employment of a social worker at Deaf Action and the reduction in funding in other HSCPs may impact this. • There's a potential for double, triple, quadruple discrimination with all the different layers of different protected characteristics. For many Big D deaf people they fall into every category and life becomes even more difficult if unable to access local support services. • There is potential for people to say they are being discriminated against if the impact in one geographical area is more than in another area and can become a postcode lottery of services. • Around 2% of carers have sensory loss and other comorbidities and anything that impacts on the cared for person will impact negatively on the carer, thus increasing the burden on the carer. • Some of the added value services provided, such as the carers group from Deaf Action may be impacted and subsequently no longer able to offer that additional support to carers. • The impact of reducing support would greatly impact on those in geographically locations. Travel can be a barrier to those with sensory loss and therefore can become even more socially isolated than they already may be. • There is the potential of creating more barriers to people accessing services rather than keeping the barriers as few as possible in any service change. • Any social work intervention from people at a point of crisis - domestic abuse, adult protection, children being taken into care point. If the service was cut to the extent that we weren't able to offer a pure social work service and it was down to the CCA then they wouldn't be able to do it because they wouldn't have the statutory authority to do work through those things with deaf people. The impact of that would be significant. Those in other support groups such as a domestic abuse charity 	

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights	Affected populations
<p>may be unable to communicate or understand about deaf culture and how deaf people live together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaf children who don't receive the support needed tend to be in receipt of poor education which impacts on what can be achieved in adulthood and furthering the reliability on support services. <p>Mitigations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veterans with sensory loss are well supported through Sight Scotland veterans and other associated veteran organisations (charities like Erskine, Poppy Scotland, Blind Veterans UK). The impact of any service reduction will be lesser to an extent for this demographic. Contract renewals to be specific in their need in order to best meet the requirements of individuals and achieve best value for money. Work with providers to have those conversations, making sure that the detail of the impact is understood. Thinking about what can be done, what can we do to redesign or change the support provided with the resources that we have. Ensuring that BSL users are consulted so everyone has a clear understanding of views and impacts. 	

Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts	Affected populations
<p>Positive n/a</p>	
<p>Negative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A reduction in funding to local sensory loss organisations will increase travel if there are no local services available. 	<p>All vulnerable groups listed above, older people, people with disabilities, carers, LGBT+, communities, ELHSCP staff. Also, considerations under Fairer Scotland Duty and impact of intersectionality</p>

Economic	Affected populations
<p>Positive Local support and community groups can lead to income maximisation and other improvements to their health and wellbeing. Particularly applies to younger people through valued educational experiences.</p>	<p>The group that will be impacted the most is those with the protected characteristic of - disability, including physical or learning disability, sight or hearing loss;</p> <p>Within all protected characteristic and vulnerable groups.</p>
<p>Negative The reduction to budgets and financial restrictions limits the number of services that can be funded and therefore the number of people who can be supported</p>	<p>Anyone in need of sensory loss support from all the affected groups noted above.</p>

9. Is any part of this policy/ service to be carried out wholly or partly by contractors and if so how will equality, human rights including children’s rights, environmental and sustainability issues be addressed?

ELHSCP commissions services in line with its Commissioning Strategy, East Lothian Council’s Procurement Strategy and national good practice. Together, these set out a commitment to equality, human rights (including children’s rights), environmental and sustainability issues.

10. Consider how you will communicate information about this policy/ service change to children and young people and those affected by sensory impairment, speech impairment, low level literacy or numeracy, learning difficulties or English as a second language? Please provide a summary of the communications plan.

Communications will be planned should this proposal be accepted with service-users, potential service-users, staff and partners (including all those within the BSL community). They will be produced in accessible formats taking into account the needs of people who do not have English as a first language or low literacy levels.

11. Is the plan, programme, strategy or policy likely to result in significant environmental effects, either positive or negative? If yes, it is likely that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will be required and the impacts identified in the IIA should be included in this. See section 2.10 in the Guidance for further information.

No

12. Additional Information and Evidence Required

None

13. Specific to this IIA only, what recommended actions have been, or will be, undertaken and by when? (these should be drawn from 7 – 11 above) Please complete:

Specific actions (as a result of the IIA which may include financial implications, mitigating actions and risks of cumulative impacts)	Who will take them forward (name and job title)	Deadline for progressing	Review date
ELHSCP will use Integrated Impact Assessment to identify adverse impacts of budget reductions and will report these to its core funders, East Lothian Council and NHS Lothian.	Jane Ogden-Smith, Equalities and Engagement Officer	Ongoing	March/April 2024
ELHSCP will continue to raise the issues around public transport with East Lothian Council.	Various ELHSCP officers	Ongoing	

14. Are there any negative impacts in section 8 for which there are no identified mitigating actions?

No

15. How will you monitor how this proposal affects different groups, including people with protected characteristics?

By final Integrated Impact Assessment.

16. Sign off by Head of Service

Name Laura Kerr

Date 20/03/24



17. Publication

Completed and signed IIAs should be sent to:

jogden-smith@eastlothian.gov.uk for publication on the ELHSCP [IIA Database](#) on www.eastlothian.gov.uk