

IIA Report – Interim IIA for East Lothian Independent Advocacy Strategic Plan 2024-28

Each of the numbered sections below must be completed
Please state if the IIA is interim

Interim

1. Title of proposal

East Lothian Independent Advocacy Strategic Plan 2024-28

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

This is the first independent advocacy strategic plan for East Lothian. It sets out a commitment to:

- Develop independent advocacy services throughout East Lothian that are sustainable, proportionate, and fit for purpose
- Seek to address issues of equitable access to services
- Improve awareness, knowledge and understanding of independent advocacy and access to services.

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

We undertook engagement with service-users, staff and providers, together with desk research looking at information provided on service-users' views by providers on the draft strategic plans intentions (August to September 2023).

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

Yes

5. Date of IIA

7th February 2024, 10am – 12 noon (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 |
|------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Andrew Main | Strategic Planning & Commissioning Officer, ELHSCP Planning and Performance Team (Lead Officer) | March 2023 |
| Lorna Bellany | NHS Lothian Partnership and Place Team | |
| Laura Chant | NHS Lothian Partnership and Place Team | |
| Marie Prior | Young Carers Officer, ELC Education Department | |
| John Marr | Co-ordinator - Mental Health & Wellbeing, ELC Education Department | |
| Neil Munro | Project Support Manager, ELHSCP Planning and Performance Team | September 2023 |
| Bob McConnell | Assistant Manager, MELD | |
| Jane Ogden-Smith | Equalities and Engagement Officer (Facilitator/report writer) | September 2009 December 2022 |

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 Independent Advocacy Needs Assessment • East Lothian Strategic Joint Needs Assessment • 2011 Scottish Census • 2022 Scottish Censusⁱ | <p>The following groups of people are currently able to source independent advocacy in East Lothian:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stroke Survivors (within the last 2 years) • Prisoners in Edinburgh Prison • Children and young people experiencing an eating disorder • Adults experiencing an eating disorder • Young adults (16-17 year olds) with mental health issues or drug/alcohol use • Adults affected by drug and alcohol use • Children (5 -18) experiencing a Children’s Hearing and their siblings • Adults with experience of Psychosis, Personality Disorder, Trauma, Eating Disorders and Mental Health issues Lothian wide • Prisoners in Addiewell Prison • Children (aged 12 to 15) with additional support needs • (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAHMS) – Children and young people known to CAHMS in Royal Edinburgh Hospital (learning disability / autism • Looked-after and accommodated children and Young People • Children and young people receiving CAHMS in Edinburgh (mental health) • Learning Disability (Adults 16+) • Autism (Adults 16+) • Older People (65+) and Physical Disability (Adults 16+) • Mental Health (Adults 18+) • Adults (18+) who are affected by drug or alcohol use |

| 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>Most of the advocacy commissioned and delivered aligns with statutory requirements (for example, Mental Health, Children’s Hearings, Adults with Incapacity etc).</p> <p>Our needs assessment and engagement also showed that there were other groups, not eligible under statutory routes, who would benefit from access to advocacy, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School-aged children and young people experiencing poor mental health without a mental health diagnosis or not being treated by CAHMS • parents of children living with poor mental health or with additional support needs • homeless people (not receiving IA through other statutory routes • refugees, <i>asylum seekers and migrant workers</i>. <p>The responsibility for commissioning appropriate independent advocacy services to address these unmet needs lies with East Lothian Council rather than East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership and these findings are being brought to the attention of senior officers at the council and the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO).</p> |
| Data on service uptake/access | East Lothian Independent Advocacy Needs Assessment | The Needs Assessment and engagement established that the existing independent advocacy services in East Lothian are already running at full capacity and that there was unmet need. |
| Data on socio-economic disadvantage e.g. low income, low wealth, | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Lothian Ward Profiles | <p>Deprivation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Lothian consists of 6 wards and 132 data zones, of |

| 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 |
|---|--|--|
| material deprivation, area deprivation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation | <p>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. <p>Due to the effects of intersectionality and the impact of health inequalities, people in these areas are likely to have much greater need for independent advocacy. Some may be receiving this through statutory routes but there will be others in need but not currently eligible or for whom there are no suitable commissioned services.</p> |
| Data on equality outcomes | Scottish Government Equality Evidence Finder | The Equality Evidence Finder brings together the latest statistics and research for Scotland across different themes for age, disability, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status and transgender status. Although it cannot give us information at an East Lothian level, it does evidence the impacts of intersectionality and illustrates the additional needs of people in vulnerable groups. |
| Research/literature evidence | Independent Advocacy | This is the key foundational document for independent advocacy in Scotland |

| 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 |
|---|---|--|
| | Principles, Standards & Code of Best Practice | and its principles and standards informed the development of the East Lothian Independent Advocacy Strategic Plan. |
| Public/patient/client experience information | From service-user engagement and feedback supplied by providers from their service users – see East Lothian Independent Advocacy Feedback Report (contained in Strategic Plan document) | <p>This showed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service-users placed a high value on independent advocacy and felt that it had led to much improved outcomes for them • Demand for independent advocacy outstripped supply • More funding was needed to support independent advocacy • More work was needed to raise awareness of independent advocacy • Staff required more training about independent advocacy. <p>These areas have specific actions assigned to them in the action plan that accompanies the strategic plan.</p> |
| Evidence of inclusive engagement of people who use the service and involvement findings | See above | See above |
| Evidence of unmet need | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Lothian Independent Advocacy Strategic Needs Assessment • East Lothian Independent Advocacy Feedback Report (contained in | <p>The IIA Group welcomed the East Lothian Independent Advocacy Strategic Plan and found its impact to be generally positive but identified some areas of concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people – the group were concerned about the disparity in IA service-provision contracts for young people – some started at 16 and others only began at 18 • Young people – the group was concerned that there was a |

| 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 |
|---|--|--|
| | Strategic Plan document) | <p>rapidly growing number of school-aged young people who needed IA support for mental health but this was identified as a service gap as part of the needs assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people in the Child Protection system did not have the same access to independent advocacy as adults in the Adult Support and Protection process • BME people – housing were having to advocate for refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers and this was an area that needed further development in terms of people in these groups accessing independent advocacy. <p>These gaps in provision are outwith the control of ELHSCP, but they have been explored in the strategic plan, reflected upon in the IIA and these concerns will be relayed to East Lothian Council, who would be the commissioning body responsible for taking this element of commissioning independent advocacy services forward.</p> |
| Good practice guidelines | Independent Advocacy Principles, Standards & Code of Best Practice | See entry under Research Literature and evidence |
| Carbon emissions generated/reduced data | | ELHSCP works to an ethical commissioning strategy which is compliant with all relevant national policy and legislation, including the Climate Change Act 2009. It is committed to working in local settings |

| 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>in a person-centred and outcomes-focused way.</p> <p>The independent advocacy services we commission sometimes require advocates to travel across East Lothian to support service-users in their own home. This has to be done by car due to poor public transport links to many areas of the county. We cannot ask providers to use their funding to purchase EVs as the expense incurred would absorb funds that would otherwise go to supporting service users. ELHSCP is having to make very substantial savings and cannot assist with funding to purchase EVs.</p> <p>The resolution of this problem would be to improve East Lothian’s public transport system which would benefit service-users and providers and help ELHSCP and ELC to meet climate change commitments.</p> |
| 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 |
|---|---|
| The IIA Group felt that the objectives of the East Lothian Independent Advocacy Strategic Plan would have a positive impact on people who were eligible to receive independent advocacy through statutory routes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stroke Survivors (within the last 2 years) • Prisoners in Edinburgh Prison |

| Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights | Affected populations |
|--|--|
| <p>They also welcomed the willingness of independent advocates to support service-users in settings where service-users were comfortable, for example, in the service-user's own home.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and young people experiencing an eating disorder • Adults experiencing an eating disorder • Young adults (16-17 year olds) with mental health issues or drug/alcohol use • Adults affected by drug and alcohol use • Children (5 -18) experiencing a Children's Hearing and their siblings • Adults with experience of Psychosis, Personality Disorder, Trauma, Eating Disorders and Mental Health issues Lothian wide • Prisoners in Addiewell Prison • Children (aged 12 to 15) with additional support needs • (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAHMS) – Children and young people known to CAHMS in Royal Edinburgh Hospital (learning disability / autism • Looked-after and accommodated children and Young People • Children and young people receiving CAHMS in Edinburgh (mental health) • Learning Disability (Adults 16+) |

| Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights | Affected populations |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autism (Adults 16+) • Older People (65+) and Physical Disability (Adults 16+) • Mental Health (Adults 18+) • Adults (18+) who are affected by drug or alcohol use |
| <p>Negative The IIA Group reflected on the plight of people who were not eligible for independent advocacy through statutory routes.</p> <p>The Group heard that Education’s Mental Health Service had supported 2000 children and young people over the last couple of years and were expecting to support around 3000 in 2024.</p> <p>It also understood, that while ELHSCP could recommend the development of independent advocacy support for people in these groups, the responsibility for funding and developing them lay with East Lothian Council.</p> <p>Mitigation: ELHSCP’s lead officer for the Independent Advocacy Strategic Plan will ensure that the CWSO and senior managers at East Lothian Council are aware of the strategic plan, the evidence in the needs assessment, the views of service-users and staff from feedback, and the views of the IIA Group relating to those listed in the ‘Affected populations’ column for this entry.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School-aged children and young people experiencing poor mental health without a mental health diagnosis or not being treated by CAHMS • parents of children living with poor mental health or with additional support needs • homeless people (not receiving IA through other statutory routes) • refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers |

| Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts | Affected populations |
|--|----------------------|
| <p>Positive</p> | |
| <p>Negative East Lothian’s geography and poor public transport system mean that workers still have to drive to see service-users who live outwith town centres.</p> | |

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts | Affected populations |
| Mitigation: ELHSCP will continue to raise the issues around public transport with East Lothian Council. | |

| | |
|--|---|
| Economic | Affected populations |
| Positive Independent Advocacy helps people to have their needs understood by public bodies. This can lead to income maximisation and other improvements to their health, wellbeing and material condition. | All |
| Negative The continuing budget cuts and financial restrictions limit the number of services that can be funded and thus the number of people who can be supported. Many of the people who need independent advocacy support and can't get it will experience poorer socio-economic outcomes due to an inability to have themselves heard and understood in official situations. Mitigation: ELHSCP will use Integrated Impact Assessment to identify adverse impacts of budget cuts and will report these to its core funders, East Lothian Council and NHS Lothian as part of its budget settlement process. | Anyone in need of independent advocacy because of a protected characteristic or vulnerability, not currently supported through a statutory route. |

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 ELHSCP's Ethical 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.

ELHSCP and independent advocacy providers to review and update existing publicity materials (leaflets and website content) in order to ensure they are fit for purpose. All parties to promote independent advocacy services among health, social care and social work staff through training / awareness sessions and ensure information is available through a wide range of methods to members of the public.

- 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's lead officer for the Independent Advocacy Strategic Plan will ensure that the CSWO and senior managers at East Lothian Council are aware of the strategic plan, the evidence in the needs assessment, the views of service-users and staff from feedback, and the views of the IIA Group relating to vulnerable people who are currently unable to source independent advocacy but would greatly benefit from it. | Andrew Main, Strategic Planning & Commissioning Officer, ELHSCP | June 2024 | December 2024 |
| ELHSCP will use Integrated Impact Assessment to identify adverse impacts of budget cuts | Jane Ogden-Smith, Equalities and Engagement Officer | Ongoing | March/April 2024 |

| 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 |
|--|---|--------------------------|-------------|
| and will report these to its core funders, East Lothian Council and NHS Lothian. | | | |
| 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?

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

16. Sign off by Head of Service



Name – Laura Kerr, General Manager Planning and Performance, ELHSCP

Date – 21st March 2024

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

ⁱ Scotland's 2022 Census has so far delivered data on:

- Population by age and sex at Scotland and Local Authority level (rounded)
- Number of households at Scotland and Local Authority level (rounded).

We are still awaiting:

-
- Population by age and sex at all geographies down to output area (unrounded)
 - Number of households at all geographies down to output area (unrounded)

We are also waiting for data on output areas. Output areas are made up of approximately 50 households. Information will be released at this level for:

- Ethnic group, national identity, language and religion
- Armed Forces veterans
- Sexual orientation and trans status or history
- Demography and migration
- Housing
- Education, labour market and travel to work
- Health, disability and unpaid care.

This information should be available by May 2024. However, it means that we still have to work with data from the 2011, which is very out-of-date. This is an unsatisfactory situation.