



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EAST LOTHIAN INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER 2022
VIA DIGITAL MEETINGS SYSTEM

Voting Members Present:

Councillor S Akhtar
Councillor L Bruce
Ms F Ireland
Councillor L Jardine
Councillor C McFarlane
Mr P Murray (Chair)

Non-voting Members Present:

Mr D Binnie	Dr P Conaglen
Ms L Cowan	Ms C Flanagan
Ms M McNeill	Mr T Miller
Dr J Turvill	Ms F Wilson

Officers Present from NHS Lothian/East Lothian Council:

Ms L Berry	Mr P Currie
Ms C Goodwin	Ms J Jarvis
Mc C Johnston	Mr M Kennedy
Ms L Kerr	Ms G Neil

Clerk:

Ms F Currie

Apologies:

Ms E Gordon
Ms V de Souza
Mr I Gorman
Dr W Hale
Dr C Mackintosh
Ms J Tait

Declarations of Interest:

None

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EAST LoTHIAN IJB ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2022 (FOR APPROVAL) AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting on 15th September 2022 were approved. There were no matters arising.

2. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair informed members of a letter dated 12 October 2022 from the Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care, Humza Yousaf, which had been sent to all Local Authority Leaders, Chairs & Vice Chairs of IJBs and Health Board Chairs. The letter asked for all Local Authorities, Health & Social Care Partnerships and Health Boards to renew their focus on several key areas to reduce the number of delayed discharges and support health and social care services in their plans for winter preparedness. It also set out details of additional funding to address actions in key areas.

Fiona Wilson advised that she was collating actions on the areas identified in the letter, and others, and meetings had been arranged to discuss progress and provide the required information to the Scottish Government. In the meantime, she assured the IJB that while East Lothian was excelling on all pathways there would be no easing off and they would continue to look at ways to expand and improve services.

The Chair echoed Ms Wilson's remarks adding that officers were giving this the appropriate level of attention, as required by the letter, and that many of the areas highlighted were already priorities for the IJB. However, where additional information or reassurance was required, this was being sought.

In response to a suggestion from David Binnie, Ms Wilson agreed that a development session on palliative care/end of life care would be useful for IJB members and that this topic might be covered as part of a session on wider services.

Dr Jon Turvill commented that palliative care and end of life care was often not well understood until families had a loved one requiring this care. It was widely recognised that staff from all services wanted to be able to support people in their own homes for as long as possible and he thought that this would be a good topic for a development session.

Councillor Lyn Jardine said she was confident that East Lothian was well ahead in many of the areas highlighted in the Cabinet Secretary's letter and that Ms Wilson and her staff would continue to progress work in these and other areas. She was also heartened by the comments from Mr Binnie and Dr Turvill and welcomed the proposal of a development session.

Lorraine Cowan informed members of the Palliative Care Strategy Group which included representation from local hospices to foster links between internal and external services. The Group met quarterly to consider options such as extensions to the hospital to home service, in-house care packages and introducing a single point of contact to ensure that individuals were receiving the right care while remaining in their own homes. She said she would be happy to expand the remit and membership of the Group as required.

The Chair also reported on the recent meeting of the Community Hospitals and Care Homes Provision Change Board which was making good progress. He advised that details would be circulated soon outlining the next steps in the process.

Ms Wilson confirmed that a report on the Change Board's progress would be brought to a future meeting of the IJB and added that there was a great deal of enthusiasm within the group to see evidence-based decisions delivering change for the right reasons.

3. IJB's AUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2021/22

The Chief Finance Officer had submitted a report presenting the IJB's annual accounts for 2021/22.

Claire Flanagan presented the report. She reminded members that the 2021/22 accounts had been considered and approved by the Audit & Risk Committee in September alongside the external auditor's report but that it was important for the IJB to have sight of both documents. She drew members' attention to the annual governance statement within the accounts including the improvement actions identified. She also advised that there were no issues arising from the external auditor's report and that of the two recommendations for action: the first, relating to medium term financial planning, was already in hand and the second, relating to the annual performance report, had been completed.

In response to a question from Councillor Akhtar, Ms Flanagan explained that the IJB had previously prepared a five year financial plan but that this work had been paused during the pandemic. She had now begun to review and develop a new plan which she intended to present to the IJB at its December meeting. She added that while this was five year plan, some other IJBs chose to produce three year plans.

The Chair thanked Ms Flanagan for her report noting that the forthcoming autumn statement from the UK Government would likely have an impact on any future financial plans.

Decision

The IJB agreed to:

- i. Note the IJB's Audited Annual Accounts for 2021/22; and
- ii. Note the External Auditor Annual Report for East Lothian IJB for 2021/22.

4. 2022/23 FINANCIAL UPDATE – END OF AUGUST 2022

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report laying out the most recent financial forecasts from Partners and the projected financial position of the IJB for 2022/23. The report also updated the Board on the recent correspondence from Scottish Government regarding IJB COVID reserves.

Ms Flanagan presented the report. She provided a brief summary outlining a slight deterioration in the forecast outturn position due to further pressures within social care and Set Aside budgets. The next report to the IJB would include the Q2 financial reviews from the Partners and updated forecasts. She also provided details of the recent correspondence from the Scottish Government regarding recovery of COVID reserves. While further guidance was awaited, she confirmed that currently there was no impact on the IJB's financial position. She agreed to share the letter with members.

In response to a question from Councillor Akhtar, Ms Flanagan provided details of the IJB's COVID-related reserves and the cost projections for 2022/23. She also confirmed that providers were aware that sustainability payments would cease as of 31 March

2023 but that currently there were few areas where providers could still claim. In relation to the Scottish Government's intentions on reclaiming of COVID reserves, a number of bodies had already sought further advice, including legal advice, and Ms Flanagan said she would continue to tap into all available networks and to follow the advice provided by professional networks.

Councillor Jardine asked about avenues to try to influence further guidance from the Scottish Government. Ms Flanagan reported that the Chair of the Chief Finance Officers group regularly met with government colleagues to ensure that the guidance that was being developed worked for IJBs, local authorities and Health Boards alike. In terms of COVID costs, she confirmed there would be no additional costs incurred this year. Winter funding was being used to support non-bed based resources to put additional capacity into the system and support alternative models of care.

In response to further questions from Fiona Ireland, Ms Flanagan confirmed that the costs for Set Aside were calculated on a percentage basis. She said that NHS Lothian had been moving towards charging for costs based on actual activity but that the pandemic had halted this work. However, the process was re-starting and the HSCP was working to better understand activity across acute services and to share this information with NHS Lothian.

Ms Wilson advised that there was a lot of work taking place to understand occupancy and commissioning of beds in mental health services and to understand how to develop alternative services if the IJB is not using beds. Part of this work would involve Direction-setting.

Ms Ireland agreed that there was a need to consider how to structure Directions to lever some of that funding and to target it where it was needed.

The Chair asked if the increase in the Set Aside costs was influenced by the increased activity to deal with the backlog following the pandemic. Ms Flanagan advised that much of the increase was related to the impact of high vacancy levels and the use of locums and agency staff to fill these gaps. However, she accepted that the IJB needed to better understand what was driving the figures and that this information would come from the Partners.

Decision

The IJB agreed to:

- i. Note the end of August 2022 financial reviews undertaken by Partners; and
- ii. Note the correspondence from Scottish Government regarding IJB COVID reserves.

5. MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT (MAT) STANDARDS

The Chief Officer had submitted a report updating the IJB in relation to the Medication Assisted Treatment Standards and the requirement to embed and implement these standards to 'enshrine a rights based approach to immediate, person centred treatment for problem drug use, linked to primary care, mental health and other support services'.

Gillian Neil presented the report. She began by outlining the background to MAT Standards which had been drawn up in response to the high levels of drug related deaths across Scotland. She summarised the standards and explained how services had been developed to ensure that individuals who met the standards could access

assessment and treatment on a same day basis, five days a week from 31st October, either through self-presenting at MELDAP or GP referral. This service would include involving a named person to encourage engagement with services over the longer term.

Ms Neil informed members that MELDAP colleagues and third sector providers would work with them to develop a communications strategy to publicise the service and engage with those at highest risk.

Ms Neil then to set out the recommendations contained in the report brought before the IJB which sought approval of a plan to implement the MAT standards by April 2023 and to monitor progress in line with Scottish Government requirements. She detailed some of the monitoring arrangements being put in place and advised that funding from the Scottish Government and MELDAP had allowed them to recruit nursing staff to support the service.

Dr Turvill thanked Ms Neil for her excellent report and the work that lay behind it. He said that knowing people could access same-day assessment and treatment was crucial as people often needed immediate help when they were ready to present. He also noted the development of the substance misuse service, particularly within primary care, which was helpful for clients. He said he looked forward to the work being reflected in reduced deaths and improved outcomes.

The Chair observed that people with substance misuse issues were often judged and that this could also be a barrier to treatment. He echoed Dr Turvill's point about the importance of people being able to access the treatment they needed at the time when they felt able to seek help.

Councillor Akhtar agreed with the trauma based approach and echoed the remarks of her colleagues. She wished to pass on her thanks to MELDAP for stepping in to cover the shortfall in funding and suggested that they be invited to the IJB, as had been done previously, to provide an update on their work. She also asked if there had been any issues with recruitment.

Ms Neil advised that while they had recruited the necessary nursing staff, MELDAP colleagues had struggled to recruit to their posts and if they were not successful it may be necessary to look at alternative service models.

Recommendations i and iii were approved by general agreement of members and recommendation ii was approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Decision

The IJB agreed to:

- i. Note the specific responses, actions and oversight arrangements required by the Scottish Government to achieve implementation of the MAT standards;
- ii. Approve and sign the MAT Standards Implementation Plan; and
- iii. Note the quarterly progress update against the delivery of the MAT Standards Implementation Plan.

6. IJB DIRECTIONS POLICY

The Chief Officer had submitted a SBAR presenting the draft Directions Policy for approval by the IJB.

Claire Goodwin presented the report. She informed members that the draft policy updated the previous version produced in 2015 and reflected changes in the IJB's approach to Direction-setting in the intervening period, as well as the discussions at the development session in June 2022. She remarked that the introduction of a new policy was timely given the recent adoption of the IJB's new Strategic Plan and the work currently taking place to review all existing Directions and to develop a Delivery Plan. The new policy would help to inform the review of Directions as well as reflecting good practice and ensuring compliance with statutory requirements and Scottish Government guidance. Ms Goodwin outlined the key principles underpinning the approach in the draft Directions policy and drew members' attention to the process diagram and templates included in the appendices to the policy.

The Chair agreed that there had been significant developments in the way the IJB used Directions and it would be important to work closely with Partners to ensure these were successful. He added that monitoring progress was also very important and it would be useful to have more clarity on this.

Ms Goodwin responded to questions from Councillor Akhtar confirming that the Delivery Plan would be outcome-based, mapping strategic objectives alongside performance indicators, and would link into the work already being done by the Partners to avoid unnecessary duplication.

The recommendations were approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Decision

The IJB agreed to:

- i. Consider the content of the appended Draft Directions Policy; and
- ii. Approve adoption of the Draft Directions Policy.

Signed

Mr Peter Murray
Chair of the East Lothian Integration Joint Board