**East Lothian Partnership Governance Group**

**Monday 27th June 2022**

**9:30am – 11:30am**

**Teams Meeting**

**Present:**

Monica Patterson, East Lothian Council

Jocelyn O’Connor, Police Scotland

Maureen Allan, VCEL

Iain Gorman, East Lothian IJB (substitute for Alison McDonald)

Lawrence Wyper, Scottish Enterprise (substitute for Mark McMullen)

David Girrity, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

**In attendance:**

Sharon Saunders, East Lothian Council David Milne, Scottish Government

Douglas Proudfoot, East Lothian Council Paolo Vestri, East Lothian Council

Phil Conaglen, NHS Lothian Toby Renouf, East Lothian Council

**Apologies:**

Katie Dee, NHS Lothian Audrey Cumberford, Edinburgh College

Hilary Sangster, SFRS Mark McMullen, Scottish Enterprise

Fiona Wilson, NHS Lothian

**1. Note of the last meeting; 22nd April**

Approved as a correct record

**1a. Matters Arising**

Lawrence Wyper had been scheduled to provide update on the Scottish Enterprise Business Plan. Data has not been published yet, it will be published this summer.

**Action:**

**Lawrence will provide an update on Scottish Enterprise Business Plan at the meeting scheduled for 26th October.**

Monica Patterson thanked everyone who attended the Meet the Partners event on 30th May at the Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh, for their contribution.

**2. Residents’ Survey**

Results of the Residents’ Survey have only recently returned, so a complete report will be circulated imminently. Paolo Vestri gave a presentation outlining the key messages from the Residents’ Survey. A generalised decrease in satisfaction with public services from 2019 to 2021, likely due to the impact of COVID, was a theme across all areas of the survey. Paolo noted the change in methodology necessitated by the restrictions of lockdown (postal/online surveys), to provide additional detail, a number of focus group sessions will be organised later in the year to examine questions in more detail.

Monica Patterson noted the importance of ensuring recovery plans recognise the areas that have shown a dip in performance in the survey.

David Girrity asked if there was any additional context available for the responses in the survey, Paolo explained this was not possible but that this would be examined in the focus group sessions.

Philip Conaglen asked whether it was possible to break down responses by areas of multiple deprivation/more affluent areas: Paolo explained that this will be shown in the report. He also questioned how East Lothian results compared to other local authority areas: Paolo noted that comparisons have not been done yet, but that this will be looked at where councils have done comparable surveys.

Maureen Allan noted positives in the survey results: more people expressing a desire to get involved with decision making; and results indicate that interventions around mental health and isolation seem to have been effective. David Milne expanded on this to suggest that people staying closer to home during covid lockdown, may have contributed to a reappraisal of the importance of public services and a raising of expectations of what public services should be.

Douglas Proudfoot noted important context for the results of the survey: that partnership services were in a business continuity arrangement.

Paolo noted that he will reflect on the points raised in the survey during the process of developing the new council plan and the revised East Lothian Plan.

Monica recommended a personal briefing with a local journalist when making results of the survey public.

**Action:**

**Paolo to circulate completed Residents’ Survey report.**

**2b. Child Protection sub-group**

Judith Tait updated on the outcome of a meeting conducted with Nikki (?) and Ann Neilsen to discuss how community planning partners would take forward the child protection work that has emerged from the pandemic. This linked clearly with one of the aims of the strategic needs assessment (strengthen links between the emerging risks and priorities of the public protection committee back into the community planning and other relevant partnerships formed in East and Midlothian).

**Action:**

**Translate the emerging themes from the data held through the Public Protection Committee and decide where that sits back within the role of the governance group and community planning.**

**2c. Poverty Plan**

Paolo noted that the Poverty Working Group that was established after the Poverty Plan was approved last year has met on a number of occasions, with next meeting 29/06/22. It has begun to review each of the actions within the plan, developing an action plan and schedule with indicators for each of the actions and objectives.

Significant work has been undertaken on two key areas of the plan:

Benefits take-up campaign: This will run from 8th September – 9th October with targeted work specifically around older people (pension credits), poorer families and young people.

£750,000 budget this financial year to help low-income households, this has come from the Scottish Government’s Local Covid Economic Recovery Fund. Looking at ways to distribute this to those in financial need, either as cash payments or pre-pay cards.

Potential addition of a seven-figure community benefit through an East Lothian windfarm, if this is successful, it will be used to assist those in financial hardship with utility bill payment.

Ongoing discussions with Maureen Allan around the establishment of an East Lothian Poverty Partnership, and will be a point of discussion at the Poverty Conference on 8th September. This may be an informal forum.

**Action**

**Paolo to report back on outcome of East Lothian Poverty Partnership discussions at future meeting.**

**3. Action Plan Framework**

**3a. Connected Economy Group**

Douglas noted that the council has moved from response to recovery on 13th June

Focus has been on:

* delivery of an action plan
* consideration of continued government grant support
* mutual prosperity framework and the economic regional strategic piece
* NSET development strategy for East Lothian
* UK Shared Prosperity Fund
* Levelling Up Fund

**3b. Community Justice Partnership**

Jocelyn noted that the Scottish Government has recently had a consultation on the new criminal justice strategy, signaling a change of direction for criminal justice strategy. Specifically stripping out early intervention which has been a key work stream for the CJP. The new strategy focusses on post-charge and post-conviction. Given this change of strategy, Jocelyn suggested it may be better to disband the CJP in its current form and create a safety and justice partnership group that would report into this Governance Group.

**Action**

**Jocelyn to bring back a structured paper outlining new approach to next Governance Group meeting.**

**3c. Childrens Strategic Partnership**

Judith set out responsibilities in relation to recovery and renewal:

* Mental health and wellbeing support for children and young people

They have received additional funding from CALMS to support single point of access.

Pilot site for the neuro developmental pathway work in East Lothian.

Evidence to show that the work being done is reducing the demand for CALMS, but important to ensure that an additional waiting list is not being created.

* Young carers

Helpful paper presented at the last CSP meeting reporting on progress on in-house service for young carers in East Lothian.

More work to be done to bridge the gap between the young people believed to be young carers and those who are currently being supported.

CSP is beginning to think about new plan for 2023-2026. A commissioning subgroup has been setup for the CSP to develop a more collaborative approach to using resources.

**3d. VSEL**

Maureen noted an increase in people looking to volunteer. Work will take place on VSEL business plan after the summer.

**3e. East Lothian Council**

Paolo reiterated that the council has now moved into recovery phase (away from response) almost all services moved away from business continuity mode, although some have maintained business continuity mainly due to staffing pressures. Paolo noted that it would be useful to have reports at future meetings on specific parts of the recovery and renewal plan.

Douglas noted that the Recovery and Renewal Plan Coordinating Group internally meets on a monthly basis picking up plan actions and council action in the context of coordination.

**3f. NHS Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership**

Ian Milne noted significant system pressures with flow specifically around covid admissions and staffing issues as a result of covid. Ian pointed out that it is mid-summer but that closed beds and 20+ hour waits in A&E are a reality as a result of staffing issues. For example, East Lothian Community Hospital is operating with 55% of registered nursing workforce – operating systems within margins of safety.

**4. Equally Safe**

Judith sets out a summary of the Equally Safe paper circulated. She requested a discussion to consider how we collectively upstream the strategic work to embed the aspects of the policy outlined in the paper.

Judith highlighted the importance of the need to focus on equality rather than getting too tied to words like violence and abuse that can make people feel it is not relevant to them.

Judith wants to consider where the strategic home sits for the upstream priorities (1 and 2) and how the Violence Against Women and Girls Delivery Group can have some oversight of actions. It is important that all council services have some of the right actions within improvement plans.

Philip Conaglen noted that these are also questions that have been considered by the NHS and volunteered to be part of a small group examining how this would work. Judith suggested it is important that each part of the organisation examines their own usage before coming together to create process. It is important that what is in the national strategy is effectively implemented and that collective ownership and across partners takes place.

Paolo mentioned that work is already ongoing in the form of the Equality Plan in ensuring that broader data is gathered beyond sex; more can be done, but the journey has started.

**Action**

**Judith to circulate key questions and schedule a discussion on implementation at the next Governance Group meeting**

**5. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

David Girrity noted that the new Strategic Plan can be seen online and that the main difference between it and the 2019 plan is the move to seven outcomes in place of four. SFRS is facing an unprecedented number of people leaving due to a change in pension arrangements, this is impacting services and staffing profile: not an immediate impact on the service across East Lothian or Scotland, but is giving concern. A working group is in place to look at staffing solutions.

**6. Ukrainian Refugees Update**

Douglas Proudfoot gave an update on the two main schemes – Homes for Ukraine (UK Gvt) and the Super Sponsor Scheme (Scottish Gvt). Stats and figures circulated in accompanying report.

Homes for Ukraine scheme has been relatively smooth; however, Douglas noted that five hosting arrangements have already broken down with Ukrainian families requesting urgent housing options advice. This is creating extreme difficulty given the already stretched homelessness demand in East Lothian.

The difference in operation of the Super Sponsor Scheme from HfU (where families are matched prior to arrival) means that there are a number of families waiting to be matched staying in temporary accommodation, often airport hotels. This is creating a great deal of pressure in the system. 17 properties have been identified in East Lothian. Douglas noted the extreme pressures facing the system. Issues of transport links in more rural properties as well as lack of amenities mean that some Ukrainian families are turning down offers of accommodation.

Monica noted that she will take issues with matching families to hosts back to COSLA and SOLACE to see if this is a policy matter. Monica also noted that as well as the immediate challenges with the situation, there are also medium and long-term implications for housing and homelessness.

Judith noted the added layer of complexity inherent in the UK Gvt’s implementation of a legal route to allow unaccompanied minors into the UK from Ukraine.

David Milne has noted points raised and will take this back to Scottish Government.

**7. Scottish Government Place Directors**

David Milne set out that the role of Place Directors largely reflects the previous role of Location Directors.

Place Director role has recalibrated the balance between local and national priorities for the Scottish Government, including around covid recovery, time in child poverty, net zero etc. It will consider hoe these are pursued locally and take account of local issues.

Scottish Government has also sought to strengthen the focus on two-way communication and received support for the role being more than cascading Scottish Government messages into local areas. Deputy First Minister is saying to local public services and to Scottish Government that we need to break down delivery silos; so the aim is that this will lead to more consistent and holistic messaging to local areas.

Maureen Allan asked how this would impact the third sector. David noted an aim to ensure third sector voices are better reflected across government; and for the Place Directors to get a sense of how life feels across partners in an area, through attendance at meetings and one-to-one discussions. Specifically there would be an aim for a relationship to be established with third sector leads (as well as other partners).

**8. Any other business**

Maureen Allan asked where we are in relation to the Community Planning Improvement Plan, have we as partners looked at this work stream? Paolo Vestri noted that we have not really considered the Community Planning Improvement Plan as such, but that we have agreed as a partnership to carry out a review of our own plan later this year and also review our governance structure which should pick up any points coming through from the CPIB.

Paolo noted key items for the next meeting’s agenda:

* Recovery and Renewal Plan (one or two key items)
* Report from working group around gender equality and equally safe
* Reflections from partners on the paper on proposed Safety and Community Justice Partnership
* New Council Plan (beginning process of reviewing the East Lothian Plan)

And for the October meeting:

* Scottish Enterprise Strategy

Monica noted that it would be have a plan for future meeting agendas: e.g. at the next meeting, people can see what is scheduled for October and can start to plan accordingly.