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**East Lothian Partnership Governance Group**

**Monday 12th December 2022**

**3:15pm – 5:15pm**

**Teams Meeting**

Meeting note

Matters arising

1. Recovery and Renewal Plan scheduled updates

* 1.1: Implement the East Lothian Poverty Plan 2021-2023

Paolo circulated a detailed written update for this action. Summary –

Established multi-agency poverty working group with responsibility for implementing the action plan, with representatives from council services, NHS Lothian, VCEL and representatives from the financial inclusion network and East Lothian Friendly Food Network. Key part of this group’s work is to take on board the views of people with lived experience. Work has been ongoing to establish a formal group comprised of people with lived experience. They will feed into the work of the poverty working group.

The Council had money in the Covid Recovery Fund with which a temporary two year post was created (Tackling Poverty Officer) who has taken the lead in helping to deliver the poverty plan and key work including establishing the group of people with lived experience. The Council allocated an additional £250,000 from its reserve to supplement the Socttish Welfare Fund Crisis Grant and Community Care Budget. That has been well used. We are on course to spend the budget for the Crisis Grants and may over spend. .

The Council also allocated £750,000 from the Local Authority Covid Recovery Fund that was received from Scottish Government, that money has gone o support people in low income households. Allocations of that funding are provided in Paolo’s written update. We are supplementing the Scottish Welfare Fund and providing an additional £100 grant to people who apply for crisis grants or community care grants. Currently we have spent around £130,000, so we are on target to spend the allocation before the end of the financial year.

We agreed to put an additional £112,000 to support food initiatives over the winter period. Some of the funding has gone to the fair share hub, £30,000 to the food bank. Another £55,000 went to food initiatives across the county to provide hot meals over the winter.

Money was allocated for an income maximisation campaign. This ran from early September to early October. The additional resource achieved financial gains for 64 people. £16,500 investment in the campaign achieved £125,000 benefit for claimants.

Of the £750,000 there is still £30,000 to be allocated. A decision will be made on that last portion of funding shortly.

East Lothian has just been granted an additional £1million from community wind power. This is being administered through Advice Direct and is going directly to people who are having problems with their energy bills. The scheme went live just over a week ago (at time of meeting) but there appears to be high demand for this. We expect just over 1,000 households will claim up to £1200.

* 1.2: Encourage increased levels of volunteering across our communities and community partners and grow resilience, promoting community connections and befriending.
* 1.3: Engage with third sector and voluntary sector organisations to support a county-wide network of community groups and organisations.

Maureen has provided detailed written report.

Summary: VCEL has a tracking mechanism for volunteers, it isn’t operating as well as Maureen would like so improvements will continue to be made. Maureen has had conversations with ELC as well as partners within VCEL to move this forward. Cost of Living Crisis is skewing volunteering figures nationally.

VCEL have highlighted 5000 volunteering opportunities in East Lothian over the last year. Unfortunately unknown uptake levels at this stage. People have been noting that volunteering is no longer affordable due to numerous factors including cost of fuel.

**Maureen can pull together additional detail about the cost of living crisis for the next meeting if needed. Monica agreed that this would be valuable.**

VCEL are employing three part time locality workers to work alongside the Connected Communities team. They provided 504 direct face to face interactions supporting local organisations with governance issues. A lot more work could be done around this, but Maureen recognises that they have had to prioritise.

The extent of VCEL’s work has grown hugely, capacity is stretched to the maximum .

Monica asked if Maureen could provide areas of activity and geographical location of the volunteer work being undertaken. Maureen noted that while she could provide some information gathered at a national level, it would not be particularly accurate for East Lothian, and this is part of the work being undertaken to develop the software system available to VCEL. Maureen has been asking those overseeing volunteers to provide data on hours worked etc: they are working towards being able to provide this, but currently not possible.

Monica noted that having access to the data would allow a comparison between East Lothian and other comparable parts of Scotland to see if there are lessons that could be learned.

Douglas noted it is important that we’re not seen as stuck just trying to respond to Covid when in fact we are responding to a multitude of different challenges. It is important that we secure a transition away from a pure-Covid response and Douglas felt it was absolutely relevant to be talking about the cumulative impact of all the challenges faced.

* 1.7 Support carers of vulnerable adults and young carers to build resilience in order for them to sustain their caring role.

Matt outlined the contents of his Powerpoint document:

The impact of the pandemic informal carers has been very significant and is ongoing: partly because, the restrictions around COVID but also restrictions around the ability to provide services that as previously to support informal carers.

Restablishing services that had previously been in place has been supported by additional government funds (£1.5 million per year) and appointed a dedicated carers strategy officer who has been able to coordinate a lot of this work and will develop the next iteration of the carers strategy.

Aso appointed a dedicated CCW (social work assistant role) to work directly with carers of adults.

Some of this funding was used to support carers who may be going for guardianship of adults they are caring for who lack capacity.

Funding has also supported day centres, each has a member of staff supporting carers.

Work has also been done with Lookie(sp?) to support the work they do assisting carers all over UK and Scotland.

A lot of work has been done to re-establish short breaks in residential centres ( this hadn’t been possible during the pandemic).

There are about 5000 carers who are known and they are receiving support in a number of different ways.

Judith noted that services for young carers was brought in-house last year, sitting within the education inclusion service. It has been really successful in delivering on the eight priorities for young carers. There has been successful use of Viewpoint to engage and consult with young carers.

**Action: Monica requested that Judith provide an update on the work with young carers. Toby to circulate this to members.**

* 4.1: Provide targeted mental health / wellbeing support for children and young people and their families. Target youth work and promote youth citizenship initiatives

Judith noted that the young persons’ mental health an wellbeing service sits within education and children’s services primarily but is a partnership piece of work that reports into the Children’s Strategic Partnership.

The model for delivery is called a single point of access. There is a triage system where referrals are largely from education but can come from a variety of sources. There are a number of approaches taken including counselling services and art therapy. It is a successful model that other local authorities are emulating.

On the cusp of receiving additional funding from CALMS (?) to promote and continue the above model.

The service is not reaching everyone and there is a slight concern about creating a waiting list. However, it is reducing the waiting list for CALMS (?) with evidence to show this.

Next stage will be to look at whether there are children who have been referred in who don’t have a mental health problem and may need parenting support or sleep related guidance, for example, rather than mental health issues. Work will be around ensuring that the family is getting the right support. Some of the referrals being received through the single point of access are not really mental health referrals.

Bettina wanted to know how people find out about the service and get access to it. Judith noted that CALMS(?) also have a tier 2 service, so it is important there is no duplication of that: Lynne Binney will be working on this. Having two places to go is maybe not helpful , it risks duplication. Judith expects an update on this situatipn.

* 6.1: Build resilience in health and care provision through closer integration and a focus on recovery from the pandemic
* 6.2: Support the training and development of our carer workforce

6.1 and 6.2 are also summarised in the PowerPoint document Matt circulated.

Summary: One of the measures in place for health and social care is a “daily flow huddle”, an activity meeting that meets daily at 9.30, chaired by senior management within the partnership, social work, and numerous others across disciplines. Looks at all residents who are currently in hospitals, taking a solution focused approach to keep a track on residents in hospital and ensuring a discharge as soon as possible. This is an existing approach, but is now being carried out in a more intense way. This has contributed to a noticeable improvement in discharge rates since the summer. East Lothian is performing well in terms of delayed discharge.

Inreach approach: occupational Therapists and physiotherapists are attending ERI and Western General hospitals in person and working directly with residents to find personal solutions and make plans for discharge as soon as possible. This becomes a community based approach, important that staff are aware of all options open to them and this process helps ensure this.

Icap meeting: multidisciplinary meeting across local authority and health partners. Colleagues have a say every morning and look at what capacity is in the services and the greatest priority for need is taken into account.

Mental health action plan is a process very similar to those referenced above, trying to focus on alternatives to hospital admissions.

Care at home: delivery of the care at home service for elderly people has been particularly challenging. There has been real difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff. This has created significant risk for service users. There has been an increase in capacity by increasing recruitment to internal provision and by trying to reconcile and consolidate private provider provision.

Unmet need: this is a generally sitting at around 1000 hours per week, this shows the good work being done as this level has been maintained despite challenges. Need in East Lothian is higher than in other parts of Scotland (see powerpoint for graphs). However, there has been a success in reducing social work waiting lists to almost zero.

Monica asked how social work waiting lists were brought down to almost zero.

Matt explained three main steps:

1. Recognising that this was a target that could be reached.
2. Quantify the basic elements of demand capacity to deliver that demand and manage it. Knowing the extent of demand allowed for the setting of monthly benchmarks. There is also a graded approach to caseloads that are set according to risk.
3. Focus on service resilience and not have multiple handoff points.

Matt also highlighted initiatives around training and development of the current workforce. Two aspects to developing social care workforce development:

1. Improving quality and standards and making sure we have compliance with training that already exists.
2. Giving staff the support to gain new qualifications.

Maureen noted that the staff shortage within East Lothian can become a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul as staff rotate around different services. Maureen wanted to know if independent providers were included within the workforce development steps, noting that failing to do so may create a “them and us” situation.

Matt noted that in recent months, rather than a cisrculation of staff within the social care sector, many have simply left and found work elsewhere. Matt suggested that the Scottish Government’s Fair Work approach needs to be the framework for taking forward some of Maureen’s concerns.

* 7.1: Create a network of Digital Champions to support colleagues as they develop their digital skills

Paolo noted that the network of digital champions is now in place with 65 members of staff across many services. They are supporting the roll out of Office 365.

* 7.3: Develop a flexible and resilient workforce

The new Council Workforce Plan is going to the cabinet for approval in January, this includes just over 30 actions based on the three themes listed:

1. Sustain a skill
2. Flexible and motivated workforce
3. Support and initiate transformational change
4. Build and sustain leadership and management capacity

Paolo has circulated a more detailed outline of these points.

1. **Community Safety and Justice Partnership proposed Remit/ Terms of Reference, Membership and Supporting Groups**

Paolo outlined progress with the CS&JP, reminding members that an agreement had been reached to establish a new Community Safety and Justice Partnership that would include three subgroups: one for community safety, one community justice and one on equally safe.

Paolo went through the proposed terms of reference that had been circulated to members and discussed initial membership of the groups, additional members and appointing of chairs for each group. Paolo noted that the chair of the partnership would be appointed who would convene the initial meeting of the partnership early in the new year to finalise the terms of reference, membership of the partnership and supporting groups and report back at the next meeting of the Governance Group to allow members to have final approval.

Important to begin with a vision for the CS&JP: to achieve a safe, fair and just East Lothian with responsive and victim focused services that enables our people and communities to flourish. This links in to overall ambtions for East Lothian and provides a focus in relation to community safety and justice.

Membership: the suggestion is a minimum of 8 and maximum of 14 members. Partnership should be strategic and high level, receiving reports from the more operational supporting groups. So membership of the partnership would be strategic and executive level. The suggestion is that the chair of the partnership would be the executive director of Place (ELC) and the deputy chair should be a representative from Police Scotland, either the divisional commander or the local commander. Also: head of communities and partnerships with the council, head of children’s services, head of operations for health and social care partnership, representative from NHS Lothian – likely the director of public health, chair of the East and Midlothian public protection committee, representative from SFRS, representative from the voluntary sector (VCEL), an elected member of the council.

Remit: oversight of planning and delivery of community safety and justice strategies. Also suggested that as well as receiving reports from the supporting partnerships, they should also receive reports from other partnerships and groups with a strategic role in delivering community justice eg East and Midlothian public protection committee; and Mid and East Lothian drug and alcohol partnership. The partnership should ensure an early intervention/prevention approach is central to its plans.

Meetings: For the CS&JP, suggested meetings three times per year but no more than four times.

Paolo’s circulated document outlines proposed agreements, remits and memberships for the supporting groups.