

THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Wednesday 3 June 2020 – 3:00pm

Meeting held via Microsoft Teams

MINUTE

Board members present

Cllr Adam McVey	The City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Cammy Day	The City of Edinburgh Council
Gavin Donoghue	The University of Edinburgh
Sean Scott	Police Scotland
Cllr Robert Aldridge	The City of Edinburgh Council
Paul Wilson	EARN
Elaine Morrison	Scottish Enterprise
Audrey Cumberford	Edinburgh College
Jim Crombie	NHS Lothian
John Tibbitt	Edinburgh Association of Community Councils
Cllr Susan Rae	The City of Edinburgh Council
Julie Coyle	Skills Development Scotland
Kenny Rodgers	Scottish Fire and Rescue
Angus McCann	Chair of the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board

Advisers present

Andrew Kerr	The City of Edinburgh Council
Ester Roberton	Interim Chair of NHS Lothian

In attendance

Michele Mulvaney	The City of Edinburgh Council
Paula McLeay	The City of Edinburgh Council
Agata Maslowska	Audit Scotland
Chris Adams	The City of Edinburgh Council
Jim McCormick	Edinburgh Poverty Commission

1 Minutes

Decision

To agree the minutes of 18 December 2019 and 17 March 2020 as a correct record.

2 Edinburgh Poverty Commission COVID-19 Findings

Jim McCormick, Chair of the Poverty Commission presented interim findings on poverty and Coronavirus in Edinburgh. The Edinburgh Poverty Commission had connected with citizens and organisations across the city to assess the impact of Coronavirus on people living in poverty. The Poverty Commission's final report had been postponed from April 2020 to Autumn 2020 due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

The Partnership highlighted the following matters in response to the interim findings presented:

- The need for system and culture change across statutory and third sector support.
- The notion of a single point of contact for service users to signpost them onto complementary service providers and that there was a wealth of examples in Edinburgh where service providers were already providing a comprehensive level of support and signposting.
- That there had been a doubling of the claimant count for unemployment benefit in April 2020 in Edinburgh, and a change in the profile of those now making claims.
- That consideration would need to be given to how services would target people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) groups and those living in affluent areas but had experienced poverty.
- A plea that rough sleepers did not find themselves in a more adverse situation following Coronavirus and for the City of Edinburgh Council to feedback to the Edinburgh Partnership on this matter.
- That the Council's policy on debt would warrant reconsideration due to Coronavirus and to recognise that this would also necessitate change at a United Kingdom Government level.
- That Covid had destigmatised poverty, that there was a requirement to ensure that information helpful to those experiencing poverty was available in the community and to use the opportunity of Covid to drive changes where there was an appetite to deliver services to those experiencing poverty differently.
- That Coronavirus had highlighted issues of digital poverty and that the rollout of fibre infrastructure had been accelerated in less affluent areas of the city, as a means of responding to digital poverty and associated connectivity issues.
- That Rona Hunter of Capital City Partnership was seeking to allocate funds within the City Deal to create a new and targeted Edinburgh Guarantee deal,

a programme aimed at getting young people into work and the funding was to be used for reskilling.

- That there was a need to reconsider the Data Driven Innovation component to the City Region deal, in tandem with universities and colleges and to note that Angus McCann wanted to provide input to discussions on this topic.
- That the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) would produce a formal action plan in response to the Poverty Commission's findings.

Decision

1. To agree that Andrew Kerr would report to the Edinburgh Partnership on the City of Edinburgh Council's (CEC's) approach to homelessness following emergency COVID-19 measures.
2. To note the Edinburgh Poverty Commission COVID-19 findings and to note that the final Poverty Commission findings would be available in Autumn 2020.
3. To agree that the Partnership, via the LOIP as the delivery vehicle for the Partnership, produced a formal action plan in response to the Poverty Commission's findings.
4. To agree that the LOIP's proposed action plan would be presented to the Edinburgh Partnership Board for endorsement.
5. To include Angus McCann in discussions for reconsideration of DDI as part of City Deal.

3 COVID-19 Planning

Partners were invited to share their respective organisation's COVID-19 Planning.

Representatives from the NHS noted the seismic impact that Coronavirus had on the NHS, and the recognition that the recovery phase would take years. There had been some stability of admissions of Covid patients into acute units, with an overall reducing pattern. Accident and Emergency admissions which had dropped during the initial peak of the virus were now returning to normal levels. The NHS had a remobilisation plan to start to return to scheduled treatments and this was based on clinical risk assessments and the requirement to safeguard patients.

The City of Edinburgh Council shared their Adaptation and Renewal Plan, which was the Council's approach to support the city as it emerged from the COVID-19 crisis. Underpinning the plan were five new, interlinked programmes of work to help Council services and the city adapt to, and harness opportunities presented by, the longer-term impacts of the pandemic:

The five programmes of work were described and included a Public Health Advisory Board to ensure the effective communication and implementation of national public health advice.

The Service Operations programme involved looking at how to re-introduce essential services that needed to be adapted for social distancing and or digital delivery.

The Change People and Finance programme involved understanding the financial consequences for the Council, Budget forecasts and assessing the current strategies and deliverables that were in place.

The Sustainable Economic Recovery programme would involve engaging with businesses, stakeholders and sectors to inform the economic recovery plan.

The Life Changes programme was developing the Council's short and long-term responses in tackling poverty across Edinburgh, alongside pupils' return to school particularly for vulnerable students.

The Council's new budget would be developed from September 2020 with a new business plan being presented in March 2021. Recovery planning and responding to the ongoing crisis were key considerations for both the budget and business plan.

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) explained that a helpline had been launched as part of their Covid-19 response. Their face to face service in schools had been curtailed in response to the virus and activities had moved to take place via telephone or online. SDS had hoped to secure endorsement from Education Colleagues and had extended their suite of support for every school leaver in 2020.

EVOC, were collating what was happening across the third sector interface network, giving consideration to how services would work with a blended approach, with some in person support and some offered remotely and how best to could continue to deliver services.

Scottish Enterprise shared statistics in relation to the poor health of some businesses, some of whom were indicating a risk of closure and noted broader economic concerns due to loss of jobs in the economy. For businesses who had traditionally enjoyed good financial health, they usually were in a position to hold cash reserves for a six-month period, however now that the country had been responding to covid for three months, the next three months for businesses, even those that were in a stronger financial position, was critical.

Decision

To note the updates from Partners in response to COVID-19.

4 Maximising the potential of our recovery plans through collaboration.

The Edinburgh Partnership reflected upon where there were opportunities for joint working. The NHS, City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) and the University of Edinburgh (UoE) as large organisations facing analogous issues to each other, in their response to Covid-19 had shared a dialogue, and indicated that this dialogue would continue, particularly in respect of joint communications, regional working, active travel and working together on poverty issues. There was an interest to bring third sector interface partners into this dialogue for which Ella Simpson from EVOC's input

was considered important. There was a collective recognition that as partners worked through their recovery plans that there would be a need to work out with the meeting cycles of the Edinburgh Partnership to achieve this.

Decision

1. To note that NHS, CEC and UoE) had met and would be meeting to discuss collaborative working on matters of mutual interest relating to each organisation's COVID-19 recovery plans.
2. To agree to include EVOC in a meeting with UoE, NHS and CEC concerning COVID-19 recovery collaboration.
3. To note the urgency across the Partnership to respond to Coronavirus and recovery planning and to agree that the Partnership would work as Partners and in partnership out with the planned meeting cycle to achieve this.
4. To agree to include recovery plans as an agenda item on the next formally convened Edinburgh Partnership.

6 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 29 September 2020 at 2pm.