

# Minute

Edinburgh Integration Joint Board



## Edinburgh Integration Joint Board

**Monday 18 March 2024**

Hybrid Meeting – Main Council Chamber, City Chambers / Microsoft Teams - City Chambers

### **Present**

#### **Board Members**

Katharina Kasper (Chair), Councillor Tim Pogson (Vice-Chair), Philip Allenby, Bridie Ashrowan, Robin Balfour, Heather Cameron, Andrew Cogan (substituted George Gordon Items 7.2 to 10.1), Councillor Euan Davidson, Elizabeth Gordon, George Gordon (items 1.1 to 7.1), Helen Fitzgerald, Ruth Hendery, Rose Howley (items 1.1 to 6.1 ), Matt Kenedy (substituted Rose Howley items 7.1 to 10.10) Peter Knight, Jacqui Macrae, Allister McKillop, Councillor Claire Miller, Councillor Max Mitchell, Councillor Vicky Nicolson, Moira Pringle, and Pat Togher

#### **Officers**

Richard Lloyd-Bithell, Jess Brown, Anna Duff, Emma Gunter, Andrew Henderson, Linda Irvine Fitzpatrick, Angela Lindsay, Deborah Mackle, Mike Massaro- Mallinson and Joanna Pawlikowska

#### **Apologies**

Eugene Mullan

#### **Declarations of Interest**

Ruth Hendery made a transparency statement as a trustee of Vocal.

Bridie Ashrowan made a transparency statement in relation to EVOC being in receipt of funding from the health and Social Care partnership.

## 1. Deputations

---

### a) Edinburgh Trade Union Council

**(in relation to Item 7.1 Finance Update, Item 7.2 Savings and Recovery Programme 2024/25 and Item 7.3 Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy)**

The deputation expressed concern about consumers of health and Social Care would be affected by proposals under section 7 on the agenda. They believed that the recovery plan will result in poor outcome for people and endanger of delivery of the improvement plan. The deputation expressed concern that officers' approach is in contrast to key Scottish government and the City of Edinburgh Council policies aimed to tackle and reduce poverty, and contrary to the principle of boosting preventive care and reducing the inequality in Edinburgh and Scotland. The deputation disagreed with the financial programme which highlighted the importance of unpaid carers stating that the main issue of the board is a political issue and board should reject the package and raise a concern with the Scottish government to take the responsibility in the light of upcoming elections.

The deputation expressed concerns related to funding reductions on early intervention and prevention and care packages. The deputation also disagreed with the proposal to reduce the care home provision reduction from 15% to 11% and expressed concern that this would be implemented without any public consultations. The deputation welcomed the proposal to undertake work to reduce number of agency staff and move to place-based requirement.

### b) Unison

**(in relation to Item 7.1 Finance Update, Item 7.2 Savings and Recovery Programme 2024/25 and Item 7.3 Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy)**

The deputation outlined that the failure came from the Scottish government decisions in funding the care services and the previous failures to effectively manage the limited resources appropriately. The deputation requested that EIJB take ownership of the situation and stand up for the needs of citizens. The deputation highlighted that there is no benefit in deciding which service is more essential than others and that service reductions will have an impact on vulnerable groups and highlighted that if an essential service was removed or subsumed, the demand wouldn't change. The deputation reminded the board that Unison's door was always open, and that Unison would not stand by whilst services were reduced and asked that the board join Unison in this view.

### c) EVOC

**(in relation to Item 7.1 Finance Update, Item 7.2 Savings and Recovery Programme 2024/25 and Item 7.3 Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy)**

The deputation recognised the fact that less money was granted by the Scottish government for social care and disagreed with EIJB decision which will result in

less inspections in care. The deputation highlighted three main points: pause the cuts, negotiate possibilities, and transform the partnership between the partnership and the third sector.

The deputation raised concerns about the capacity which hasn't been recognised and several vulnerable people remain anonymous. The deputation believed that people should approach NHS services in line with 5 core principles: safety, choice, trust, collaboration, and empowerment. The deputation requested redesigning services to make sure that people are included, and service will reflect user's needs. The deputation pointed that this approach would deal with the root causing the problem rather symptoms and it's more cost effective in a long term.

The deputation disagreed with proposed funding reductions and believed that integrated impact assessment had only limited engagement due to a power imbalance between statutory requirements and third sector. The deputation expressed concern that officers proposals were not in line with the Scottish Government performance framework on wellbeing.

**d) The Health Agency**

**(in relation to Item 7.2 - Savings and Recovery Programme 2024/25 and Item 7.3 - Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy).**

The deputation advised that it takes community to help people to recover and that saving money in one place would create more costly problems in the long term. The deputation expressed concern that service reductions will affect service users and third sector organizations in addition to connections which cannot be rebuilt and asked that members pause service reductions and consider the wider perspective and that the proposed service reductions would reduce the ability for Health and Social Care to be preventative.

**e) Health All Round**

**(in relation to Item 7.2 - Savings and Recovery Programme 2024/25).**

The deputation highlighted the critical role of the Health All Round in the community and the immeasurable benefits that it provides to the community. The deputation recognised the challenging financial position of EIJB and the importance of taking difficult decisions but disagreed to further reductions of third sector funding. The deputation expressed concern that reduction of core funding will decrease the ability to provide services. The deputation advised that Health All Round has operated for over 30 years and works closely with GPs and supporting agencies to help 200 users weekly. The deputation highlighted that GP's rely heavily on third sector organisations and cannot function without them and that reductions in third sector funding would please a heavier burden on NHS services.

**f) Community Renewal Trust**

**(in relation to Item 7.2 - Savings and Recovery Programme 2024/25).**

The deputation advised that they hoped to find new ways of addressing health inequality and persistent poverty by implementing new innovative and affordable solutions. The deputation referred to proposal 22 which is an early intervention and prevention reduction of £1.4 million and highlighted that this would result in spending increases elsewhere. The deputation highlighted that a cost benefit analysis on proposed funding reductions would highlight issues and impacts.

**e) Unite the Union City of Edinburgh Council Branch**

**(in relation to Item 7.2 Savings and Recovery Programme 2024/25).**

The deputation believed that the integration of health and social care has failed due to funding reductions to services and described this situation as a national problem requiring a national solution to have properly funded health and social care services. The deputation believed funding reductions are not realistic or practical and some will make the budget deficit worse. The deputation detailed concerns relating to proposals outlined under 1, 2, 10, 11, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 23 and advised that whilst additional Scottish Government funding is welcome, it comes with expectations which won't be met if funding reductions are approved.

**h) The Ripple Project**

**(in relation to Item 7.2 Savings and Recovery Programme 2024/25).**

The deputation believed that the proposed funding reductions would result in an increased cost to the EIJB and partners. The deputation provided an overview Ripple Project services are aimed at tackling poverty and inequality. The deputation highlighted that a 10% funding reduction could mean losing services and will result in service users being referred to health and social care services for support. The deputation requested to pause to reflect and recognise the impact of the proposed cuts and asked the board to work with third sector organisations to plan over the next few years.

## **2. Minutes**

---

The minute of the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board of 9 February 2024 was submitted for approval as a correct record.

### **Decision**

To approve the minute as a correct record subject to the addition of Apologies: Councillor Miller.

## **3. Rolling Actions Log**

---

The Rolling Actions Log updated to November 2023 was presented.

### **Decision:**

- 1) To agree to close the following actions:

- **Action 3 (2)** – Finance Update (November 2023)
  - **Action 6** – Annual Cycle of Business
- 2) To otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions; and
  - 3) To note the verbal update in relation to Action 7 from the Service Director Operations.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log March 2024, submitted)

#### **4. Finance Update**

---

An update on the financial performance of delegated services was provided. It was highlighted that following increased, demand driven costs in social care services, the level of assurance provided of a break-even position for 2023/24 remains limited. This reflected the fact that whilst positive discussions are taking place with partners, no solution has yet been agreed to fully address the projected year end position.

##### **Decision**

- 1) To note the financial position for delegated services to 31st January 2024 and associated year end forecast;
- 2) To note that increased purchasing costs are driven by improved performance and increasing demand;
- 3) To note the recovery plan designed to address the financial deficit by 31st March 2023;
- 4) To note the risks inherent in the recovery plan;
- 5) To note that the recovery plan remains insufficient to deliver in year financial balance based on current projections;
- 6) To note the limited assurance provided by the Chief Finance Officer; and
- 7) To agree to support the Chief Officer and Chief Finance Officer in their discussions with partners.

(Reference – Report by Chief Finance Officer, Edinburgh Integration Joint Board)

#### **5. Savings and Recovery Programme 2024/2025**

---

The 2024/2025 Savings and Recovery Programme was presented to the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board for approval.

##### **Decision**

- 1) To agree savings proposals 16 - 24, as set out in this report and in the associated appendices;
- 2) To agree the proposed plan to review Integrated Impact Assessments (IIAs) as set out in appendix 3;
- 3) To note savings proposals 1 – 15 which are presented for information; and
- 4) To agree that the principles outlined in Councillor Millers proposal are incorporated into a workshop and that following this a standalone report is brought back to the next board meeting for consideration.

(Reference – Report by Chief Officer Edinburgh Integration Joint Board)

## **6. Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy: 2024/25 to 2026/27**

---

The draft medium-term financial strategy for 2024/25 to 2026/27 was presented. The associated financial projections incorporated the latest available information, including budgets which will be delegated from the IJB's partners, comparing these to projected costs based on the current forecast outturn, anticipated growth, and assumptions around additional resources.

The draft medium-term financial strategy addresses the projected financial shortfall over a 3-year period and sets out a range of initiatives, aligned where possible to the IJB strategic plan which, aims to support financial balance.

Outputs from, and the potential impacts of the medium-term financial strategy have been the subject of tripartite talks with the EIJB's partners. All involved in these discussions recognised and accepted several complex inter-related factors, namely: ongoing improvements in performance; the increased demand for services as we emerge from the Covid pandemic; the IJB's structural deficit; and a range of unavoidable financial pressures. In this context, partners recognised that financial balance will only be possible through reductions in services, outcomes, and performance.

Due to the alignment with the updated strategic plan, the draft medium-term financial strategy will be finalised in parallel.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the 2024/25 budget offers from the City of Edinburgh Council and NHS Lothian;
- 2) To agree to support the ongoing development of the medium term financial strategy and agree that this is finalised alongside the strategic plan;
- 3) To note the budget control measures required to balance the plan;
- 4) To agree to issue a direction to the City of Edinburgh Council for the uplifting of contracts from 1st April 2024 in line with a minimum hourly rate of £12.00 for front line social care staff using the methodology agreed nationally
- 5) To agree to receive an update on progress on a regular and appropriate basis throughout the year; and
- 6) To agree that the principles outlined in Councillor Millers proposal are incorporated into the workshop agreed under item 7.2 and that this is included in the report being brought back to the next board meeting for consideration.

(Reference – Report by Chief Finance Officer, Edinburgh Integration Joint Board)

## **7. Date of next meeting**

---

### **Decision**

To note Monday 22 April 2024 at 10am as the date of the next EIJB meeting.

## **8. Valedictory remarks**

---

### **Decision**

To note the boards thanks to Ruth Hendery for her work on the EIJB as a non-voting member.