

# Minute of Meeting

Cabinet  
Tuesday 25 May 2021  
Item No 4.1



## Cabinet

Date	Time	Venue
2 March 2021	11.00 am	Via Microsoft Teams

### Present:

Councillor Milligan - Convener	
Councillor Muirhead – Depute Convener	
Councillor Curran	
Councillor Hackett	

### Religious Representatives:

Mrs Elizabeth Morton	
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## 1 Apologies

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Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Imrie and Vic Bourne..

## 2 Order of Business

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The Order of Business was as detailed within the Agenda.

## 3 Declarations of interest

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No declarations of interest were received.

## 4 Minutes of Previous Meetings

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The Minute of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 1 December 2020 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

## 5. Reports

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Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.1	Inspection of Midlothian Council Care at Home service	Alison White
<b>Outline of report and summary of discussion</b>		
<p>The purpose of the report was to provide an overview of the recently announced Care Inspection report on Midlothian Council Care at Home Service.</p> <p>Midlothian Council Care at Home service had been inspected in November 2020 over a period of two weeks by the Care Inspectorate. The recent report was published in December 2020 and had been distributed to all Elected Members of the Cabinet for their information. The inspection covered three key areas of the National Health and Social Care Standards attributed to care at home services. These included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How good is our leadership?</li><li>• How well is our care and support planned?</li><li>• How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic</li></ul> <p>Following the recent inspection a report was published that detailed the areas of its findings and outlines areas for recommendation and/or requirements. A revised action plan with specific timescales for completion, had been developed to address all areas for improvement. This action plan was regularly updated, to track and monitor improvements.</p> <p>The inspection report graded the areas of inspection from 1 (Unsatisfactory) to 6 (Excellent). This inspection report graded the three areas as follows:</p> <p>How good is our leadership, 4 - Good</p> <p>How well is our care and support planned, 4 - Good</p> <p>How good is our care and support during COVID pandemic, 4 - Good</p> <p>The Care Inspectorate noted that there had been significant progress made since the last inspections in August 2018 and May 2019, including the service meeting pre-existing requirements.</p>		

Alison White was heard in amplification of the report after which she provided clarity and answered questions from elected Members.

#### Decision

- (a) To note the content of the report and progress made;
- (b) To refer the report to the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee for consideration; and
- (c) That the appreciation of the Cabinet for all the excellent hard work undertaken by all staff concerned be relayed back to them.

#### Action

Joint Director Health and Social Care

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.2	Inspection of Midlothian Council - Highbank Intermediate Care Facility	Alison White

#### Outline of report and summary of discussion

The purpose of the report was to provide an overview of the recently announced Care Inspection report on Highbank Intermediate Care Facility inspection.

Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership's intermediate care facility – Highbank was inspected on 10 November 2020 by the Care Inspectorate as a registered care home for people aged over 60. The report was published in December 2020 and had been distributed to all Elected Members of the Cabinet for their information. The inspection format was undertaken under the new Care Inspectorate Health and Social Care standards for care homes. Although Highbank was an intermediate care facility, there were no specific standards for intermediate care at this stage. It covered the following theme:- How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Highbank provided an intermediate care service to enable people who required intervention/assessment and/or rehabilitation to prevent an avoidable hospital admission and/or to facilitate a speedier hospital discharge where appropriate with the outcome of maximising their independence to maintain their health and wellbeing to return to their own home.

Following the inspection, a report was published that detailed findings and outlines, any areas for improvement and/or requirements for improvement. An action plan, with a specified timescale had been developed to address identified areas for improvement. This action plan had been implemented to track and monitor progress, and identify that timescales were being met. There were 2 previous recommendations and 3 previous requirements.

The previous areas for improvement were:-

- The manager should ensure that appropriate falls prevention guidelines, risk assessments and support plans are in place for people, based on recognised falls prevention frameworks. Staff should be provided with training and support they need to understand this and apply it to their practice.
- People experience care and their relatives/carers, should have planned and meaningful opportunities to share information about their daily routines, preferences and choices for care and support, as part of the admission process.

The second improvement had been met but there was still some work to be

completed regarding falls risk assessment. The care Inspectorate noted:-

*“Although there was some support detailed in people's personal plans it did not always follow best practice. To make sure people are at minimal risk of falling further training for staff was needed. We recognised that the planned training has been delayed due to the pandemic, but this area for improvement should be prioritised”.*

The three previous requirements had all been met within the required timescales.

The inspection report graded the areas of inspection from 1 (Unsatisfactory), to 6 (Excellent). This inspection report graded the three areas as follows:

- 7.1 People's health and well-being are supported and safeguarded during the COVID-19 pandemic, 4 - Good
- 7.2 Infection control practices support a safe environment for people experiencing care and staff, 4 - Good
- 7.3 Staffing arrangements are responsive to the changing needs of people experiencing care, 4 - Good

Alison White was heard in amplification of the report after which she provided clarity and answered questions from elected Members.

#### Decision

- (a) To note the content of the report and progress made;
- (b) To refer the report to the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee for consideration; and
- (c) That the appreciation of the Cabinet for all the excellent hard work undertaken by all staff concerned be relayed back to them.

#### Action

Joint Director Health and Social Care

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.3	Inspection of Midlothian Council – Newbyres Village Care Home	Alison White
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>The purpose of the report provided an overview of the recently announced Care Inspection report on Newbyres Village Care Home.</p> <p>Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership's Newbyres Care Home was inspected on 21 January 2021 by the Care Inspectorate as a registered care home for people aged over 60. The report was published 4 February 2021.</p> <p>The inspection format was undertaken under the new Care Inspectorate Health and Social Care standards for care homes. It covered the following theme: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?</li></ul> <p>Newbyres Care Home provided long term care for 61 residents. The inspection undertaken graded the areas of inspection from 1 (Unsatisfactory), to 6 (Excellent). This inspection report graded the three areas as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 7.1 People's health and well-being are supported and safeguarded during the COVID-19 pandemic, 4 – Good</li></ul>		

- 7.2 Infection control practices support a safe environment for people experiencing care and staff, 4 - Good
- 7.3 Staffing arrangements are responsive to the changing needs of people experiencing care, 4 - Good

Following the inspection, a report had been published that detailed findings and outlined any areas for improvement and/or requirements. From the visit undertaken or brought over from previous inspections. There were no new requirements/improvements however, 3 previous areas for improvement and 1 previous requirement were noted as below.

The previous areas for improvement were:

- The provider should ensure appropriate opportunities are in place for staff to feel supported in their roles and able to influence further improvement and development within the service, including reflecting on their own practice.

The care inspectorate commented that following a change in management, a more positive working culture had been developed, This had enabled staff to feel supported and to have clarity over the roles and responsibilities they had in meeting people's care and support needs.

- The provider should ensure that resident's needs were fully met by having the right number of people to care for them. This included the assessment of staffing to undertake duties in addition to direct care. For example: administering medications and updating support plans.

The care inspectorate commented that staffing levels had increased during the course of the pandemic and were reviewed on a regular basis to ensure they fully meet the care and support needs of people.

- The provider should ensure appropriate falls prevention guidelines, risk assessment and support plans are in place for people, based on recognised falls prevention frameworks. This is to ensure the care and support is consistent with the Health and Social care Standards.

The care inspectorate commented that various risk assessments were in place for people, detailing how to keep them safe from falls as much as possible, assisted with various technology. The service was aware however that they needed to enhance the training available to staff. This would be followed up by Care Inspectorate in the next inspections.

Alison White was heard in amplification of the report after which she provided clarity and answered questions from elected Members.

#### Decision

- (a) To note the content of the report and progress made;
- (b) To refer the report to the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee for consideration; and
- (c) That the appreciation of the Cabinet for all the excellent hard work undertaken by all staff concerned be relayed back to them.

#### Action

Agenda No.		Presented by:
5.4.	Midlothian Council Report Quarter 3 2020/21	Chief Executive

#### Outline of report and summary of discussion

The report advised that the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 9 December 2020 agreed to a request from the Chief Executive that Quarter 3 Performance Reporting be slimmed down to accommodate reduced capacity within the performance function as a result of the response to Covid-19 and that this report sought to combine an overarching Council and Service update as a result.

Community Planning partners had previously agreed the following ambitious vision for Midlothian:

“Midlothian – a great place to grow”.

Midlothian Council delivered its priorities through the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and the Single Midlothian Plan. The Council Change and Transformation programme and individual Service Plans outline how Midlothian Council will deliver its contribution to the Single Midlothian Plan.

The top three priorities for 2019-22 were:

- Reducing inequalities in learning outcomes
- Reducing inequalities in health outcomes
- Reducing inequalities in economic circumstances

The Single Midlothian Plan incorporated five overarching thematic groups which support the achievement of outcomes. This thematic approach was used for quarterly reporting, the themes are as follows:

- Adult Health and Social Care - Responding to growing demand for adult social care and health services
- Community Safety & Justice - Ensuring Midlothian is a safe place to live, work and grow up in
- Getting it Right for Every Midlothian Child - Improving outcomes for children, young people and their families.
- Improving Opportunities for Midlothian - Creating opportunities for all and reducing inequalities.
- Sustainable Growth in Midlothian - Growing the local economy by supporting business growth and responding to growing demand for housing in a sustainable environment.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) had been approved by Council in June 2019. The public consultation visionary exercise supporting development of the MTFS highlighted the following key priorities for what Midlothian should be like in 2040:

- A sense of belonging Pride in communities, working in partnership, transparency in decision making and accessibility in service provision.

- A balanced infrastructure Manageable housing numbers, vibrant towns, protected green spaces, a clean, carbon neutral environment and improved community transport.
- Learning and working together High quality education and training, jobs close to where people live, a main provider of local food production, maximising technological solutions.
- Intergenerational opportunities Reimagined older people services, being able to grow old in the one community, with support and good access to health and social care.

In addition to the visioning exercise the following key themes were explored as part of the consultation programme:

- Theme 1: One Council - Working with You, For You - is underpinned by a commitment to deliver a one council strategy which reduces silo working within services, increases cross party working at a political level and uses holistic approaches which place individuals and communities at the heart of our work.
- Theme 2: Preventative and Sustainable - responds to Communities telling us strongly that they want to live in a clean, carbon neutral environment with protected green spaces and improved environmentally friendly community transport options.
- Theme 3: Efficient and Modern - recognises that Midlothian Council needs to adapt to change by doing things differently to get improved results and increasing financial sustainability by addressing inefficiencies.
- Theme 4: Innovative and Ambitious - recognises our ambition for Midlothian and to make sure it is a great place to grow, now and in the future

The report also provided details on other key areas including:-

Best Value/City Deal/Route Map through and out of the crisis/Priority interventions to support recovery/Midlothian: Listen and Learn Report and The Service Plans for 2020-21.

The Chief Executive and senior officers were heard in amplification of the report after which they answered questions from elected Members.

#### Decision

Noted the content of the report.

In view of the nature of the business to be transacted, the Cabinet agreed that the public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the undernoted item, as contained in the Addendum hereto, as there might be disclosed exempt information as defined in paragraph 6 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:-

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
6.1	Irrecoverable Debt Write Off	Executive Director Place
<b>Decision</b>		
(a)To authorise write-off for the irrecoverable debts as detailed within the report to the total amount of £490,400.33;		

(b) To invite the appropriate officers of City of Edinburgh Council to attend a future meeting of Cabinet to provide clarification on the Debt Collection process; and

(c) That a report providing details on repeat premises over the last 20 years that have incurred irrecoverable debt and what actions have been taken to address this matter.

**Action**

Executive Director: Place

The meeting terminated at 12.05 pm.