

Midlothian Integration Joint Board



9th December, 2.00pm

Learning Disability Services – Financial Position

Item number: 5.6

Executive summary

This report seeks to provide the Midlothian Integration Joint Board (MIJB) with an update of the current financial position in relation to Learning Disability Services.

Board members are asked to:

- 1. Note** the report;
- 2. Agree** the recommendations.

Learning Disability Services – Financial Position

1 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview and initial analysis of the Learning Disability social care expenditure for Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership (MHSCP). It details a breakdown of the expenditure and identifies some of the complexities around managing the cumulative expenditure where the scope for changing individual care packages can be limited. This work is in line with Midlothian HSCP service transformation plans.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 As a result of this report Members are being asked to:
- **Note** the contents of the report
 - **Agree** that a paper be brought back to the Midlothian IJB in March 2022 which provides options for addressing the financial pressures on Learning Disability services. Whilst not an exhaustive list, this could include the following:
 - Options in relation to any management actions that could be taken to reduce the overspend (eg. A review of current care management and review processes);
 - A clearer understanding of any resource release to Midlothian HSCP from the redesign of the Royal Edinburgh Learning Disability bed base;
 - An understanding of the Learning Disability services budget in the context of the wider Midlothian IJB budget with a particular focus on areas where there has been recurring winter Covid monies invested.
 - An understanding of how transitions cases are managed as well as where older people with learning disabilities are managed.

3 Background and main report

- 3.1 A report is attached as *Appendix 1*. This provides an overall context and illustrates the current spend.

Summary of Key Points

- 3.2 The total annual expenditure on Learning Disability services is currently around £16.7m. There are currently approximately 400 people with a learning disability who receive funded services from Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership.
- 3.3 With the exception of 2020/21, the % increase in spend has exceeded the % increase in budget.

- 3.4 As of 2019/20, the cost pressure was £2.6m. This reduced to £710k in 2020/21 although caution should be exercised here due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 3.5 There are 371 care packages provided. 109 of these (representing 29% of all packages) cost £10k or less each. 16 of these (representing 4% of all packages) cost more than £150k each.
- 3.6 20 people account for 25% of overall expenditure.
- 3.7 An area of financial pressure is the increasing number of young adults who have a learning disability – 37% of adults with a learning disability are under the age of 30.
- 3.8 The numbers and spend relating to older adults with a learning disability (65+) may be under-recorded due to how they are counted on systems (ie. as older adults).
- 3.9 Data from 2019 shows that Midlothian has a higher than average incidence of individuals with a learning disability compared with the Scottish Average.
- 3.10 The Learning Disability spend per head of population for Midlothian is £125.35. This compares to national average of £135.60.
- 3.11 There remains work to complete in relation to reviews of care packages.
- 3.12 It is recognised that there is an ongoing need to understand the cost base of Learning Disability services.

4 Policy Implications

- 4.1 The aims and ethos of the Learning Disability services as articulated through the relevant strategic plans fit with the general policy direction of the Midlothian IJB, in providing more care closer to home and more care being community based.

5 Directions

- 5.1 Direction 10 on Learning Disability, specifically: “We aim to support people with learning disabilities to live as independently and as full members of their local communities as is possible”.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 The work undertaken by the Learning Disability services aim to significantly reduce inequalities for that client/patient group.

7 Resource Implications

- 7.1 It is noted that Learning Disability services are currently operating with an overspend of the current budget and that this is not sustainable.

8 Risk

- 8.1 Operating with a cost pressure as is the case currently with the Learning Disability services presents a risk to Midlothian IJB.

9 Involving people

- 9.1 Midlothian HSCP teams have been involved in the development of this report. It is noted that change in senior management within the HSCP has resulted in a fresh look at the Learning Disability service.

10 Background Papers

- 10.1 None.

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Appendices: Appendix 1: Learning Disability – Expenditure Analysis & Financial Governance.