

Midlothian Integration Joint Board



Thursday 25th August 2022, 14.00-16.00

Learning Disability Service Update

Item number: 5.6

Executive summary

This report provides the Midlothian Integration Joint Board (MIJB) with an update on Learning Disability Services. It will cover both activity and the financial position.

Board members are asked to:

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

Learning Disability Service Update

1 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on Learning Disability services within Midlothian HSCP. An initial paper presented to the Midlothian IJB (MIJB) in December 2021 provided an overview and initial analysis of the Learning Disability expenditure.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 As a result of this report Members are being asked to:
- **Note** the contents of the report
 - **Agree** the following:
 - a) That a review of Learning Disability services is progressed and concluded within 6 months.

3 Background and main report

- 3.1 A report attached as *Appendix 1* provides an overall context and illustrates the current spend. It is an update from the report provided in December 2021 and has a particular focus on transitions from child to adult disability services.

Summary of Key Points

- 3.2 The total annual net expenditure on Learning Disability services is currently around £16.4m. There are 375 adults 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 due to increase in the number of people receiving learning disability services and the increased complexity in their care needs.
- 3.4 As of 2019/20, the overspend was £2.7m. This reduced to £764k in 2020/21 and £43k in 2021/22, through the allocation of demographic monies to this budget although caution should be exercised here due to the Covid-19 pandemic also caused reduced delivery of some non-critical care. The projected overspend for 2022/23 is currently around £450k – this is set against a background of no increase having been applied to the budget in 2022/23 by Midlothian Council for demographic pressures.
- 3.5 There are 375 care packages provided. 108 of these (representing 29% of all packages) are projected to cost £10k or less each. 33 of these (representing 9% 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 in Midlothian who have a learning disability – 37% of adults with a learning disability are under the age of 30.
- 3.8 Analysis of financial pressures arising from young people with Learning Disabilities transitioning from Children's to Adult Services has estimated there will be a further pressure of £1.9m over the next 3 financial years.
- 3.9 In 2019 CIPFA¹ produced comparative data on Learning Disability expenditure. (No more recent data is available). This data shows that Midlothian has a higher-than-average incidence of adults with a learning disability compared with the Scottish Average.
- 3.10 Analysis of the 2019 data identified the Learning Disability spend per head of population for Midlothian is £125.35. In comparison the national average is £135.60. While these figures may have changed more recently, there is no indication that Learning Disability spend in Midlothian has deviated significantly from national averages.

Options to Mitigate Financial Pressures

- 3.11 The Board is reminded of discussions at previous meetings relating to the redesign of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital and the anticipation that Midlothian HSCP will receive a cash release from this. The full extent of this remains unclear, but it is tentatively suggested that this will be between £200k and £400k. It is recommended that if and when received, this cash release be used to offset the historic overspend. It is not however anticipated that this release would be within the current financial year and it is likely to be in 2024 at the earliest.
- 3.12 A potential short-term solution to address the financial pressure is to increase the current budget allocation to support the IJB direction for Learning Disability. This increase would need to be covered from resource elsewhere in the IJB budgets. Consideration could be given to use of the non-recurring underspend from the care at home allocation in the 22/23 financial year. Further modelling would be required to ascertain the sustainability of this approach and any risks or budget pressures that could arise in other service areas. This modelling could form part of the recommended review.
- 3.13 Consideration could be given to a review of Learning Disability services, involving a review of the full model of care, including the 3 areas detailed below:
- A strategic review of transport costs is in the process of being commissioned. The current spend on transport for people with a Learning Disability is £954k (including £566k for Council-provided transport). The construction of the contractual arrangements requires this review (and are an outstanding action within Direction 10). A full review will determine the scope for a new commissioning model. As an example, a 10% saving here would equate to £95k.

¹ Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
Midlothian Integration Joint Board

- A scoping exercise to explore reducing commissioned services' funding (excluding Day Services) for Learning Disability services. As an example, a 10% reduction here would amount to a recurring saving of £1.108 m. It is clear that this reduction in service would carry significant risk and further work would be required to both clarify these risks and then articulate these to the IJB for decision.
 - A scoping exercise to explore reducing day service access for all learning disability clients. For example, an 8% reduction in day service provision (including internal services) would give an efficiency saving of £817k. As above, this would carry significant risk, not least in relation to the impact on individuals and their carers.
- 3.14 Using the examples above, a 10% reduction in transport costs, a 10% reduction in commissioned services' funding and an 8% reduction in day service provision would garner an efficiency saving of £2.020m to offset a 4-year (pre-covid) average overspend of £1.876m. While redesigning services will deliver some benefits, there will also be risks and cultural challenges to be managed. The review would provide options and consider these challenges.

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 (and the actions associated) on Learning Disability, specifically: "We are committed to empower people with learning disabilities and autism to recognise and realise their human rights and to participate in community life free from fear, harassment and abuse".

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. This is not sustainable. It is further noted that the projected transition costs will provide additional cost pressures.

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.

10 Background Papers

10.1 None.

AUTHOR'S NAME	Nick Clater
DESIGNATION	Head of Adult Services, Midlothian HSCP
CONTACT INFO	nick.clater@midlothian.gov.uk
DATE	4 August 2022

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