

# Midlothian Integration Joint Board



**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

## **Midlothian IJB Directions 2020**

**Item number: 5.3**

### **Executive summary**

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Directions were approved by Midlothian IJB on 16 April 2020 and formally issued to Midlothian Council and NHS Lothian for action in May 2020. The Directions were therefore issued as both organisations were managing responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Midlothian Strategic Planning Group discussed the Directions and is proposing that the IJB considers refreshed Directions that reflect changes to timeframes and/or plans since April 2020.

#### **Board members are asked to:**

Approve the updated Directions form Midlothian IJB.

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# Midlothian IJB Directions 2020

## 1 Purpose

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- 1.1 Directions identify key changes that need to be progressed to support the delivery of health and care services in Midlothian. They are aligned to the Strategic Commissioning Plan 2019-22.
- 1.2 The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant disruption to services; health, social care and community based services. It has also influenced expectations and priorities, at least in the short term.
- 1.3 Directions were approved by Midlothian IJB on 16 April 2020 and formally issued to Midlothian Council and NHS Lothian for action in May 2020. The Directions were therefore issued as both organisations were managing responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 1.4 Midlothian Strategic Planning Group discussed the Directions and is proposing that the IJB considers refreshed Directions that reflect changes to timeframes and/or actions since April 2020.

## 2 Recommendations

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- 2.1 As a result of this report Members are asked to:-  
Approve the revised Directions for 2020 onwards.

## 3 Background and main report

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- 3.1 The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 places a duty on Integration Authorities to develop a Strategic Plan for integrated functions and budgets under their control and includes a requirement for IJBs to issue Directions to one or both of the NHS Lothian and the Midlothian Council.
- 3.2 Directions are the means by which an IJB tells the Health Board and Local Authority what is to be delivered using the integrated budget and for the IJB to improve the quality and sustainability of care, as outlined in its strategic commissioning plan. They are the legal basis on which the Health Board and the Local Authority deliver services that are under the control of the IJB.
- 3.3 Directions were approved by the IJB on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2020 and formally issued to NHS Lothian and Midlothian Council in May 2020. Both organisations were therefore

were managing responses to the COVID-19 pandemic at the time that the Directions were issued.

- 3.4 The pandemic has brought many challenges but it has also allowed an acceleration of certain plans. While a formal response from both NHS Lothian and Midlothian Council is awaited, the Strategic Planning Group recommended that Directions were reviewed and where feasible amended to reflect changed ambitions or timeframes.
- 3.5 Leads for each Direction have recommended a number of amendments. These are highlighted in the document attached (appendix 1).

### **3 Policy Implications**

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- 4.1 This paper supports the strategic direction of the IJB and relates to The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 (the Act) and the requirement for Directions from Integration Authorities to Health Boards and Local Authorities

### **4 Directions**

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- 5.1 This report relates to refreshed and new Directions for 2020 onwards.

### **5 Equalities Implications**

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- 6.1 An impact assessment is not relevant to this paper however Health and Social Care Partnership programmes that relate to Directions and the Strategic Plan are subject to an Equality Impact Assessment.

### **6 Resource Implications**

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- 7.1 Directions include information on the financial resources that are available for carrying out the functions that are the subject of the directions, including the allocated budget and how that budget (whether this is a payment or a sum set aside and made available) is to be used.

### **7 Risk**

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- 7.1 IJBs, Health Boards and Local Authorities have a legal obligation to issue and monitor the effectiveness of Directions as described in the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014.  
Not complying will pose legislative risks and it will be more difficult for the IJB to undertake its duties related to accountability and good governance.

### **8 Involving people**

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- 8.1 The Strategic Planning Group discussed the Directions at its meetings on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and 18<sup>th</sup> August 2020. The group recommended that the Directions were refreshed as a result of the pandemic.  
This group includes community and service user representatives.
- 8.2 Community engagement on the planning and review of services related to Directions will continue.

## 9 Background Papers

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- 9.1 Statutory guidance on Directions, published on 27 January 2020. Available [here](#)

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**Appendices:** Directions to Midlothian Council and NHS Lothian 2020