

Midlothian Integration Joint Board



Thursday 8 April 2021, 2.00pm

Midlothian Public Engagement Strategic Statement

Item number: 5.2

Executive summary

Community engagement is both good practice and a legislative requirement for Midlothian Integration Joint Board (IJB) and Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP). There are many positive examples of community engagement within the Partnership in Midlothian.

The attached draft strategic statement is designed to state the Midlothian IJB and HSCP's intent around community engagement and provide a helpful framework for the HSCP planning groups.

Board members are asked to:

Approve the Midlothian Public Engagement Strategic Statement

Midlothian Public Engagement Strategic Statement

1 Purpose

- 1.1 Midlothian Integration Joint Board (IJB) Public Engagement strategic statement is intended to improve how the IJB and HSCP will engage with and involve individuals, groups and communities in the planning and governance of health and social care services.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 As a result of this report what are Members being asked to:-
Approve the Midlothian Public Engagement Strategic Statement

3 Background and main report

- 3.1 Community engagement is both good practice and a legislative requirement for the IJB and the Health & Social Care Partnership. The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 instructs IJBs to involve and consult with relevant stakeholders, including patients and service users, in the planning and delivery of services. There are many positive examples of community engagement within the Partnership in Midlothian.
- 3.2 The attached draft strategy document is designed to state the IJB and HSCP's intent around community and stakeholder engagement and provide a helpful framework for local planning groups, including those leading change programmes.
- 3.3 Community and stakeholder engagement is a way to build and sustain relationships between public services, third sector organisations and community groups - helping them to understand and take action on the needs or issues that communities experience.
- 3.4 The Audit Scotland report in Nov 2018, 'Health and social care integration: Update on progress' stated that significant changes are required in the way that health and care services are delivered, yet change cannot happen without meaningful engagement with staff, communities and politicians.ⁱ The report went on to identify six areas that must be addressed if integration is to make a meaningful difference to the people of Scotland. One is 'meaningful and sustained engagement'. The report asks Integration Authorities, councils and NHS boards so work together to improve the way that local communities are involved in planning and implementing any changes to how health and care services are accessed and delivered.

- 3.5 It commits to IJB and the Partnership to ongoing engagement with people and partner organisations through specific engagement activity and through representation of the third sector, carers and people with lived experience on the IJB, the Strategic Planning Group and topic based planning groups. At present the IJB is advertising roles for a third sector and carer representative.

If this strategic statement is endorsed by the IJB it is recommended that a report on progress is presented to the IJB annually.

- 3.6 The Strategic Statement is supported by a volunteer expenses policy to ensure that people are not prevented from volunteering with the IJB, on its committees or planning groups due to costs. This policy sets out an accessible and fair process for claiming and payment of expenses, including replacement care, and links with the Midlothian Council Volunteer Policy. The policy is for volunteer members of the Midlothian Integration Joint Board, the Midlothian Strategic Planning Group and Planning Groups of the Health & Social Care Partnership.
- 3.7 A summary of engagement activity and consultations during 2020 is available on request from Mairi.Simpson@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

4 Policy Implications

- 4.1 The attached Public Engagement strategic statement is intended to improve how the IJB and HSCP engages with Midlothian individuals, groups and communities in service planning, policy development and governance of health and social care services.

5 Directions

- 5.1 It is important that engagement is integral to governance groups of the IJB and HSCP. It is not proposed that a specific Direction is required however an annual report on progress should be undertaken to ensure its application across the themes of the IJB Strategic Plan and in relevant governance groups.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 The purpose of the Strategic Statement is to improve public engagement and to reduce barriers to engagement as a result of protected characteristics, financial constraints or other barriers. An Integrated Equality Impact Assessment was carried out on 30th March 2021. There were many positive impacts identified. Recommendations on further action included:
- Create a supporting document for staff with guidance and/or tools on including people in groups such as the Iriss [checklist](#) based on Scottish Government 'STOP! Make Sure You Include me' tools.
 - Create a communication plan to increase awareness of the IJB's intent around public engagement and how people can get involved.

7 Resource Implications

- 7.1 There will be a modest resource requirement as a result of the expenses policy. It is estimated at ~£3,500 per annum. The policy will be monitored.

8 Risk

- 8.1 Community engagement is both good practice and a legislative requirement for the IJB and the Health & Social Care Partnership. The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 instructs IJBs to involve and consult with relevant stakeholders, including patients and service users, in the planning and delivery of services. The IJB risks failing in its duty by not making reasonable efforts to support people to engage. This includes people with physical and other disabilities, unpaid carers and others who use health and social care services.

9 Involving people

9. The purpose of this report is to improve the involvement of people in IJB business. A range of stakeholders have commented on the draft statement and/or participated in the IIA.

10 Background Papers

10.1 ¹ Health and social care integration: Update on progress

https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2018/nr_181115_health_socialcare_update.pdf

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Appendices:

1. Midlothian IJB Public Engagement strategic statement
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