

**Minute of virtual meeting of the  
East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board  
held at 10.00 am on 3 February 2021**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Caroline Bamforth	East Renfrewshire Council (Chair)
Lesley Bairden	Head of Finance and Resources (Chief Financial Officer)
Councillor Tony Buchanan	East Renfrewshire Council
Dr Claire Fisher	Clinical Director
Jacqueline Forbes	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Board
Anne Marie Kennedy	Third Sector representative
Amina Khan	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Board
Dr Deirdre McCormick	Chief Nurse
Andrew McCready	Staff Side representative (NHS)
Heather Molloy	Scottish Care representative
Geoff Mohamed	Carers' representative
Anne-Marie Monaghan	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Board (Vice-Chair)
Julie Murray	Chief Officer – IJB
Kate Rocks	Head of Public Protection and Children's Services (Chief Social Work Officer)
Flavia Tudoreanu	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Board

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Liona Allison	Assistant Committee Services Officer, East Renfrewshire Council
Eamonn Daly	Democratic Services Manager, East Renfrewshire Council
Morven Fraser	Audit Scotland
Candy Millard	Head of Adult Health and Social Care Localities
Steven Reid	Policy, Planning and Performance Manager
Kirsty Ritchie	Communications Officer

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Dr Angela Campbell	Consultant Physician in Medicine for the Elderly
Councillor Alan Lafferty	East Renfrewshire Council
Councillor Jim Swift	East Renfrewshire Council

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

1. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

## **MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

2. The Board considered and approved the Minute of the meeting held on 25 November 2020.

## **ROLLING ACTION LOG**

3. The Board considered a report by the Chief Officer providing details of all open actions, and those that had been completed or removed since the last meeting.

Having heard the Chief Officer explain that a number of actions had been closed off and that due to current demands on officers in dealing with the resurgence of COVID-19 and the rollout of the vaccination programme deadlines for a number of the open actions had been extended, the Board noted the report.

## **PERFORMANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**

4. The Board considered and noted the Minute of the meeting of the Performance and Audit Committee held on 25 November 2020.

## **HSCP RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

5. Under reference to the Minute of the previous meeting (Item 11 refers), the Board considered a report by the Chief Officer providing an update on current service delivery in relation to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The Chief Officer, supported by the Chief Social Work Officer was heard at length on the report.

Thereafter in response to questions from Mr Mohamed the Chief Officer reported on which vaccine was being delivered in the different locations and indicated that although there had been no concerns raised to date in respect of the sufficiency of "blue badge" spaces at vaccination centres, this would be monitored. She also confirmed in response to Ms Tudoreanu that vaccines were being distributed for use as soon as they became available.

Having recognised the tremendous efforts of front line staff Ms Monaghan questioned whether there had been any increase in staff absence, whether there had been delays in treatment for people with life threatening illness and how they could be supported, and in terms of mental health services for children and young people, how prepared was the service for the inevitable increase in service demand.

In reply, the Chief Officer explained that absence levels were lower than expected but continued to be monitored and that she was unaware of any issues in relation to life threatening illness. In addition, supported by the Chief Social Work Officer she outlined the steps that were being taken both at a local level and also across the whole NHSGGC area to both deal with already increased mental health service demand and an anticipated increase in the longer term.

It was also confirmed in response to further questions from Ms Monaghan that the use of individual budgets had continued.

Welcoming the report Councillor Buchanan stated that it demonstrated the huge amount of work that was being delivered not only in respect of regular services but also the range of additional services now being delivered. He referred to the challenges of operating in the current environment and to further challenges yet to be faced.

Ms Khan welcomed the report. She questioned whether it would be possible for COVID-related statistical information to be made available to Board members. She also questioned whether in order to reduce the burden on staff current governance arrangements should be reviewed.

In response the Chief Officer confirmed that statistical information could be provided. She also explained that discussions had taken place across the 6 HSCPs in the NHSGGC area and it had been decided to use a "by exception" reporting system which would help to reduce the burden on staff. Furthermore, also in response to Ms Khan, the Chief Social Work Officer outlined the work taking place in relation to tackling domestic abuse during the pandemic.

The Board noted the report.

## **BUDGET UPDATE**

6. The Chief Financial Officer provided the Board with an overview of preparations for the 2021-22 budget process and the review of the Medium-Term Financial Plan to cover the period 2021-22 to 2025-26.

She explained that the Scottish Government budget announcement had been made the previous week. The implications of the announcement would take time to work through. Planning had been going on behind the scenes in preparation for the announcement and work with partners to progress the implications would continue.

She then summarised the high level information from the budget announcement. £72.6m was being transferred from the Health portfolio to social care to meet Living Wage, uprating of free personal care and continued carers' implementation. All of these costs were included as part of existing cost pressures. In addition she explained that there was a condition that local authority adult social care budgets for allocation to Integration Authorities must be £72.6 million greater than 2020-21 recurring budgets. The NHS budget uplift was 1.5%, and it was expected that this would be passed through in full in the contribution to the IJB. Further funding for COVID costs, drugs and alcohol, mental health and CAMHS had been set out in the allocations to health boards and any local and system wide implications would be considered upon receipt of detail.

The Chief Financial Officer then summarised the implications of the budget announcement for the IJB. She explained that the current working budget assumption with ERC as part of the estimates process included an assumed savings target and the initial announcement did suggest that this would still be an ask of the IJB, after allowing for the compliance test.

It was explained that there were already existing savings of £2.4m from the current year that it had not been possible to progress during the pandemic. This could make 2021/22 particularly challenging. At this stage it was difficult to consider what the impact of further budget reductions would mean to service delivery when services eventually moved to full recovery when there were so many unknowns on the long lasting impacts of COVID and the associated service demand.

Furthermore the Chief Financial Officer clarified that the current reserves strategy would allow savings to be phased in as planned although the size of the savings requirement may change.

It was further clarified that there were still a number of unknowns in the budget which would have an impact on financial planning.

Concluding, the Chief Financial Officer set out the timetable for approving the IJB budget and that when the Board met in March she would present in detail the issues, pressures, savings proposals and any implications from the national review.

Thereafter the Chief Financial Officer was heard in response to questions from members of the IJB. She clarified that the ongoing assumption that all COVID related costs would be fully funded had now been confirmed. This would include any unachieved savings. She also outlined the level of funding that had actually been received.

In response to questions from Ms Monaghan on the Living Wage, she confirmed that funding would be allocated to ensure partner providers would pay the Living Wage.

Councillor Buchanan having referred to the challenge of financial planning when the UK Government had not yet set a budget, the Board noted the report.

## **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

7. Under reference to the Minute of the previous meeting (Item 13 refers) the Board considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer providing details of the projected outturn position of the 2020-21 revenue budget as at 30 November 2020.

As in previous updates the report explained that HSCP costs related to COVID-19 activity were reported to the Scottish Government via NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, as health boards were the leads on this reporting. Detailed estimated and actual costs across a number of categories were provided including; staffing additional hours and absence cover for both the HSCP and partner providers, sustainability of partner providers, PPE (personal protective equipment) and other equipment, unachievable savings and prescribing impacts.

It was noted current COVID-19 related expenditure assumptions were c£9.7 million. These costs were reviewed monthly, with cost projections being continually revised as the service responded to the pandemic. The current estimated costs were included in the overall financial position with the bottom line being a nil impact as the current planning assumption remained that all costs would be fully funded by the Scottish Government. The sustainability costs supporting the social care market were supported nationally by an agreed set of principles, and it was noted that since the last meeting it had been confirmed that this support had been extended to March 2021.

The report explained that projected costs and confirmed funding in relation to remobilisation activity totalled c£9.7 million. Mobilisation funding confirmed and received to date was £4.094 million which, when compared to projected costs meant a potential maximum risk exposure of c£5.6 million. However further funding was expected and the Scottish Government continued to assess costs nationally based on HSCP submissions. Furthermore, in addition to confirmed funding, a further £0.261 million of funding had been received to support mental health and emotional wellbeing for children, young people and their families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Collaborative work was ongoing with the Education Department to fully use this funding. A further £0.037 million to support the work of Chief Social Work Officers during the pandemic was also expected along with £0.020 million for work to support care homes.

Thereafter it was reported that against a full year budget of £131.7 million there was a projected operational underspend of £0.344 million. This was a change from the overspend position reported at the previous meeting, although it was highlighted that the move from recovery back to response meant that unachieved savings would need to be taken forward.

Details of the main projected operational variances as well as ongoing financial risks were set out.

Responding to questions the Chief Financial Officer confirmed that costs relative to supporting autism service sat within Learning Disability. She also clarified that in respect of Bonnyton House there had been some delay in the completion of the project. However this had been due in part to further improvement to the project specification. Additional costs would be funded in part through COVID related costs and through reserves.

The Board noted the report.

### **EAST RENFREWSHIRE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES PLAN 2020-2023**

8. The Board considered a report by the Chief Officer, presenting for consideration *At Our Heart*, the East Renfrewshire Children and Young People's Services Plan 2020-2023, a copy of which accompanied the report.

The report referred to the obligations placed on local authorities, in conjunction with their relevant health board, to jointly prepare a 3-year Children's Services Plan for the local authority area, as well as the requirement on the local authority and health board to jointly publish an annual report detailing how the provision of children's services and related services in the area had been provided in accordance with the plan.

It was explained that in April 2020 the Scottish Government had extended the submission date for new plans due to the pandemic. This had given a further opportunity for local consultation with families on the final plan and also to consider the impact the pandemic was having on children, families and communities.

Referring to the plan, the report explained that each plan had to be prepared with a view to achieving 5 aims, details of which were listed. Furthermore the report listed those other key matters to be included as well as highlighting various plans, strategies and legislation with which the plan must align.

The report then provided details of the consultation and partnership working that had taken place in the development of the plan. In particular, the overarching role of the Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People Partnership was outlined.

The report concluded by confirming that the purpose of the plan was to set out the vision for East Renfrewshire's children, young people and their families, and demonstrate the commitment to achieve the best possible outcomes for them.

Ms Monaghan having welcomed that the comments that had been made at the draft plan stage had been taken on board, in response to questions the Chief Social Work Officer confirmed that a Children's Rights Impact Assessment would be conducted and presented to a future meeting of the Board. She also outlined the challenges of consultation during the pandemic and the groups that had been consulted in the development of the Plan.

Responding to further questions the Chief Social work Officer explained the work taking place in relation to counselling services for young people, Councillor Bamforth highlighting the collaboration between the HSCP and Education colleagues.

Following discussion and having acknowledged the legislative obligation placed on local authorities and health board, the Board noted the East Renfrewshire Children and Young Person's Services Plan 2020-2023.

### **HSCP STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**

**9.** Under reference to the Minute of the previous meeting (Item 9 refers), the Board considered a report by the Chief Officer providing an update on the progress made and ongoing development work for the HSCP Strategic Plan for 2021-22. The Board was reminded that it had approved a one year bridging Strategic Plan for 2021-22 in light of the constraints placed on the partnership due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report explained that despite the ongoing response to the pandemic, significant work had been undertaken to develop the plan resulting in the development of a consultative draft.

Details of the development work completed to date and next steps and remaining tasks having been outlined, the report explained how the Strategic Planning Group had been used to support the plan's development and gather views from local stakeholder organisations. This had included 3 meetings of the group between September and November with monthly meetings ongoing.

The draft plan would be the subject of public consultation during February with feedback received informing subsequent drafts.

The Board noted the report.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

**10.** It was noted that the next meeting of the Integration Joint Board would be held on Wednesday 17 March at 10.30 am.

CHAIR