



Minutes of a meeting of the **Scottish Borders Health & Social Care Strategic Planning Group** held on **Wednesday 2 February 2022** at **10am** via Microsoft Teams

Present: Lucy O'Leary, Non-Executive NHS Borders (Chair)
Chris Myers, Chief Officer
Gerry Begg, Housing Strategy Manager
David Bell, Staff Representative, SBC
Stuart Easingwood, Chief Social Work Officer
Lynn Gallacher, Borders Carers Centre
Caroline Green, Public Member
Susan Holmes, Principal Internal Audit Officer
Clare Oliver, Communications Manager, NHS
Gail Russell, Partnership Support Staff Side NHS
Debbie Rutherford, Borders Carers Centre
Morag Walker, Executive Officer, The Bridge
Cathy Wilson, General Manager, P & CS

In Attendance: Laura Prebble, Minute Taker
Keith Allan, Public Health
Hayley Jacks, Planning & Performance Officer
Kathleen McGuire, Lead Commissioner for Borders Care Village Programme
Morag McQuade, Clinical Director Dental Services
Morag Muir, Consultant in Public Dental Health, Public Health

1. APOLOGIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Apologies received from Wendy Henderson, Colin McGrath, Tim Patterson, Jenny Smith and June Smyth. The Chair confirmed the meeting was quorate. Chris Myers to Chair today's meeting as Lucy O'Leary is unwell. Keith Allan attending for Tim Patterson.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 November 2021 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Action Tracker: All items complete.

The **STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP** noted the Action Tracker as complete.

4. CHANGE IS AS GOOD AS A REST - PRESENTATION – Debbie Rutherford

Debbie Rutherford was welcomed to the meeting to present the report that was circulated prior to the meeting.

Caroline Green noted that carers seemed very unhappy about current respite provision and noted that the report did not look at future need. It was clear that carers were looking for building based respite provision where they can leave their loved one for a few hours. Caroline also noted that many people live out with Galashiels and so would need transport to attend any central service which is an additional cost to be considered. Lynn Gallacher added that they are in the process of scoping the wider need and the Carers Workstream group will be looking at this in more detail. Lynn confirmed there is a real need for building based day care and this is being looked at. Chris Myers noted that the IJB are updating their strategic plan which should include a section on carers so care services can be prioritised. Support for carers is measured annually on a national perspective. It is the requirement of the IJB to scope the broader area and to then co-produce a vision and implement it as a group, i.e. to understand the need and then act.

Lucy O'Leary asked about the attendance rate of carers and professionals to see how their views differed. Lynn Gallacher was unsure of the exact breakdown but noted that the professionals held the same views as the carers. They recognised the need for building based day care. Kathleen McGuire noted that day care would be included in the model for the new care village development, along with the facility for respite and step up/down services. Engagement has not yet started but this is a real opportunity to work together with carers. Lynn Gallacher welcomed that. However, Lynn noted a dis-satisfaction by carers that consultation had not taken place with them before decisions had been made. Kathleen advised that the Care Villages Programme Board was aware of the journey to date and there will be real and full engagement with carers going forward and Kathleen will be in contact with the Carers Workstream group. Chris Myers noted that the first Care Villages Programme Board will be meeting for the first time soon. There is an outline business case for a care home in Hawick as well as Tweedbank. There will be consultation with all partners as part of this process.

David Bell noted that paid carers are also burnt out. Staff are leaving and they are struggling to recruit staff. This is a national issue. Staff are needed to be able to provide services. Chris Myers agreed and noted that it has been agreed that paid carers workforce would be out of scope of the Carers Workstream but following on from the integrated workforce planning update at the last IJB and the significant workforce pressures being experienced, that in recognition of the role of the workforce, it was expected that the IJB would commission its first formal direction to the Scottish Borders Council and NHS Borders calling for an integrated workforce plan. This would be both for the medium to long term development of the workforce, but also to help manage the immediate workforce sustainability issues

Keith Allan also noted that carers need more recognition and to be held in higher esteem to encourage people into the role. Lynn Gallacher noted that some carers only have a break from caring for the short time a carer is in to support their loved one to get washed/dressed. Carers are burnt out due to the lack of respite for higher need cases and, as a result, people are being admitted to hospital or care homes sooner. Lynn noted that organisations are sitting on budgets but there are no carers to recruit to posts. Chris Myers added that it had been highlighted that the positive SDS ambition is challenged by the availability of workforce, and can mean that there is minimal support available as a result. The Carers Workstream is moving forward with this.

Conversations have been opened and all services, including building based services are being considered as part of this.

The **STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP** noted the report and thanked Debbie Rutherford for her presentation. It was agreed to keep the Carers Workstream on the action tracker.

5. REVIEW OF SCHEME OF INTEGRATION FOR NOTING – Chris Myers

Chris Myers circulated a link to this document prior to the meeting. It is a legal requirement to review the scheme of integration, in agreement with SBC and NHSB, to ensure the IJB functions as it should. In light of the pandemic and the National Care Service the Scottish Government has agreed to a light touch review. Consultation will be done widely with all stakeholders. All feedback is welcomed. Chris Myers asked member of this group to reply individually via the link and asked if the group would like to submit a joint response. It was agreed that a joint response was not needed.

Clare Oliver asked if there was an easy read version available and Chris noted that there was not. Chris added that all IJB documentation should have an easy read version so it is accessible to all. **Action:** Clare Oliver to contact Iris Bishop to discuss for future documentation. Keith Allan agreed and suggested that opinions could be gathered using another method so the opinions of all were gathered. This would achieve a better product.

The **STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP** noted the report.

6. 1. NEW IJB STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING PROCESS - Chris Myers

Following on from the last SPG meeting, Chris Myers updated the discussion paper to go to the IJB – circulated prior to the meeting. The paper has also been to the Audit Committee who were supportive of the paper. The finalised paper circulated reflects the SPG discussion to ensure the IJB commission in the right way, with good co-production at the core of how the IJB commissions in line with the steer provided by the SPG. This will also support the planning work going on over the next few years, including the new needs assessment, public engagement and the development of the National Care Service.

2. STEER FROM SPG ON THE FUTURE STRATEGY GROUP MEMBERSHIP AND REMIT – Chris Myers

Chris Myers noted that the Future Strategy group will report into the SPG. The proposed remit will be to analyse and plan for commissioning as part of the strategic commissioning process. Chris Myers asked the group if they were supportive of the proposed remit and there were no objections. Caroline Green asked if the independent sector providers (ISP) group included only paid carers and asked if a representative from Marie Curie should be included to represent the voluntary sector. Chris Myers noted that the SPG was the route in for the independent sector providers, however the SPG has the right to ask for a different approach if it would add value. Caroline Green noted the need for a professional from Marie Curie to be invited to attend rather than a volunteer/nurse who is unable to contribute strategically. Caroline added that is we are unable to employ carers then maybe consider other options such volunteers or befriending schemes to provide respite care. Morag Walker noted her apologies for the last few meetings as the representative

for the Third sector on this group. Morag noted that she has met with Brian Paris and Health representatives about the re-commissioning of services and will forward information for circulating. Chris Myers noted how pivotal the work between the IJB and the Third Sector will be to a successful way of working for the IJB that best meets needs. He asked Morag to contact him if she needs help with anything. Lynn Gallacher replied to Caroline Green's suggestion of using volunteers to confirm volunteers are being used for low level care needs but the gap is where there is a specialist high level care need.

Membership – Gerry Begg suggested housing was represented from both the local authority and social landlord sector. Chris Myers agreed to discuss this further with Gerry. Kathleen McGuire suggested a representative from Digital be included. June Smyth and Jen Holland would cover this area. Lynn Gallacher suggested including unpaid carers and Chris noted that he was keen that the Future Strategy Group did not to replicate the SPG. The Future Strategy Group would be developing the detail which the SPG could scrutinise and steer. David Bell suggested a representative from HR from SBC and NHSB. Caroline Green suggested a medical director for their views on feasibility. A clinical services representative was proposed by Kathleen McGuire.

Next steps – Chris will have further discussions with individuals and put together terms of reference for this group to bring to the SPG to formalise.

The **STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP** supported the remit and membership. Chris Myers agreed to consider the Housing representative, HR and clinical representation for the Future Strategy Group.

7. ORAL HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND NEXT STEPS – Morag McQuade/Morag Muir

Morag McQuade and Morag Muir were welcomed to the meeting. Morag Muir shared the presentation on screen. Ten priority areas for action were identified prior to Covid but the impact of Covid has means there is a backlog of appointments and clinics are not yet running back at full capacity. Inequalities have been heightened. The service is looking to remobilise in a way that addresses these issues and asking for the SPG to endorse this and the IJB to ratify this approach. The request is to have oral health included in the new IJB plan as a priority to focus on. To commission the Health Board to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for oral health services.

Cathy Wilson supports the need for infrastructure and financial backing from the IJB as dentistry is an indicator of general health. The service is mobile and can go into care homes. Keith Allan also support this request and noted that the deprived are suffering disproportionately. Keith also added that this could be included in the review of integration that is under review to help the service and the residents of the Borders. However, funding for dental services comes directly from the Scottish Government but the IJB could have control over some aspects. Chris Myers noted that general and public dental services are within the scope of the IJB with the caveat that planning and direction come from Scottish Government. David Bell noted that the data is 2 years out of date and suggested that the data be updated before presenting to the IJB.

Chris Myers thanked Morag McQuade and Morag Muir for their presentation.

The **STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP** ratified the report for publication and agreed to include oral health in the IJB strategic plan.

8. DIRECTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION – Chris Myers

Five direction documents were circulated prior to the meeting for consideration by the SPG prior to going to the IJB to seek support to issue these in line with the new Directions Policy and Strategic Commissioning Approach developed by the SPG, Audit Committee and IJB. Chris Myers asked the group for any feedback/ changes.

- Workforce strategy – this was in line with the discussion at the last IJB and the comments from David Bell in the SPG about the significant workforce pressures being experienced
- Tweedbank and Hawick Care Village Development/Workforce/Commissioning – Chris Myers noted there had been a lot of discussion at the IJB on the care village paper. Work was supported by the IJB on the basis of much more engagement and co-production, and an assessment of the need
- The Strategic Commissioning direction supports the work that will be undertaken by the IJB on developing a needs assessment and new strategic commissioning plan
- Oral Health Needs Assessment/Budgets – to be presented at the next IJB meeting. More detail to be added to the Budgets paper before submission.

Lucy O’Leary thanked Chris Myers for putting the papers together. The Directions formalise and provide clarity that the IJB’s role is to commission and the SPG’s role is to advise the IJB of the direction.

The **STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP** supported the 5 Directions.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair confirmed the next meeting of the Strategic Planning Group would be held on Wednesday 4 May 2022 at 10am to 12pm via Microsoft Teams.

Lucy O’Leary noted that local elections take place in May and so there may be a new Board by the next meeting date. The new Vice Chair of the IJB will be from the Council. Lucy is in discussion with David Parker on how to manage the Chair for the next meeting. Chris Myers noted that the IJB schedule is also being reviewed.

Meeting Dates 2022: 4 May 2022, 3 August 2022, 2 November 2022.