

10. ALCOHOL AND DRUGS PARTNERSHIP FUNDING 2016/17

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Director advising the IJB of the reduction in direct grant funding for Alcohol and Drugs Partnerships in 2016/17 and the issues associated with this.

The Board was informed that the West Lothian Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) was a multi-agency partnership set up in 2008 that had strategic responsibility for coordinating actions to address local issues with alcohol and drugs. Its membership included West Lothian Council, NHS Lothian, Police Scotland, Third Sector, HMP Addiewell. The current ADP Commissioning Plan 2015-2018, which was attached as Appendix 1 to the report, had been developed with collaboration and support of all partners.

The report went on to advise that in 2015/16, £69.2 million had been provided from across the health and justice portfolios for the purposes of supporting the work of Alcohol and Drug Partnerships on treatment services. The Scottish Government draft budget published in December included a reduction in the combined drug and alcohol funding from £69.2 million in the current financial year to £53.8 million in 2016-17.

Since December, the Scottish Government had confirmed ADP funding allocations to NHS Boards for 2016-17 in a letter of 4 July 2016. A copy of the letter was appended to the report. The result was that the ADP funding allocation for Lothian had reduced from £11.470 million to £8.887 million (a 23% reduction).

The Board noted that, as part of its financial planning process for 2016/17, NHS Lothian had passed on the relevant share of increase in its baseline budget in 2016/17 to all Lothian IJBs along with the full Scottish Government allocation for ADPs. The budget resources available were however unable to redress the 23% reduction in direct Scottish Government funding for ADPs for 2016/17.

It was estimated that the total budget reduction impacting on West Lothian commissioned services would be approximately £400,000 in 2016/17.

The Board was informed that the existing ADP commissioned service commitments were based on an expectation of funding comparable to 2016/16 levels. Although contracts could be varied or terminated, a period of at least three months notice was required. In addition such a significant reduction to ADP services, without undertaking an appropriate assessment and prioritisation of service activities, would have risks to delivery of outcomes which related to vulnerable people and disadvantaged communities.

The Director recommended that the IJB:-

1. Note that all addictions services came within the scope of the IJB Scheme of Integration.

2. Note that the budget contribution from NHS Lothian to the IJB incorporated the appropriate proportion of all NHS Lothian funding in respect of addictions services.
3. Note the reduction in the Scottish Government's direct grant funding for Alcohol and Drugs Partnerships in 2016/17.
4. Agree that the ADP commissioning plan should be reviewed and revised to bring planned expenditure in line with the reduced resources for addictions services; this review to be based on the priorities established from the strategic needs assessment and carried out with the same level of stakeholder engagement as for the original development of the commissioning plan.
5. Agree that the revised ADP commissioning plan should be presented to the IJB meeting of 29 November 2016 for approval.

Decision

To note the terms of the report; and

To approve the recommendations outlined in the report.