

Composite proposal

Edinburgh Integration Joint Board

Tuesday 26 August 2025

Item 6.1 - Review of Contracts and Service Level Agreements

The board:

1. Acknowledges the work done to date on the review of contracts and service level agreements
2. Recognises that communities of people with protected characteristics are most impacted by the social determinates of health and experience greater health inequalities.
3. Understands that partner organisations who deliver many of the services earmarked for decommissioning comprise organisations which support people with complex mental health needs through evidence-based arts, advocacy, physical activity and nature interventions in accordance with Section 26 of the Mental Health Care and Treatment Act.
4. Further understands that the Act imposes a duty on a local authority to provide, or secure the provision of, services to promote the well-being and social development of persons who have or who have had a mental disorder who are not in hospital. These services include the provision of social, cultural and recreational activities and training and assistance in obtaining and undertaking employment for individuals over school age.
5. Understands there is strong professional endorsement from frontline health professionals including GPs, Community Link Workers, Local Area Co-ordinators and Mental Health practitioners and that some of the Third Sector Organisations recommended in the paper to be decommissioned are key recipients of referrals from all these professional groups.
6. Notes that a number of the recommendations for non-renewal have been done on the basis that the projects could be done more cost-effectively, and others list 'Consider alternative commissioning approaches and opportunities for efficiency' as the primary reason for the recommendation;
7. Notes that analysis made available to board members shows that organisations are performing well, with benefits including proven therapeutic benefits, cost-effective alternatives to clinical mental health interventions, accessible support for communities and providing self-sustaining peer support networks that reduce long-term service dependency.

8. Further notes that evidence shared with Board Members by officers is clear that many of the projects partially meet statutory obligations, and that some should be continued as part of certain pathways within the IJB;
9. Believes that these factors show that these projects are having a positive impact on the work of the IJB, and should result in a recommissioning exercise rather than an agreement for non-renewal.

Therefore, the Board:

10. amends Table 4 at Appendix 3 to remove all items except those for which the project has concluded or the contract is not being fully utilised, namely:
 - 6, 10, 20, 21, 31
11. amends Table 5 at Appendix 3 to remove all items except those which are due to expire in 2027, namely:
 - 2, 3
12. Moves the items removed from these tables into Table 2*
13. understands that this means these contracts should be retained or renewed at the current level while a recommissioning exercise is undertaken, as set out in paragraphs 64-72;
14. Additionally asks that officers undertake talks with all projects recommended for recommissioning under Table 2 (including those added) to see if the current service could be delivered for less and what impact that may have on the return on investment, and report back on the impact this may have on the budget at the next Board meeting.
15. Finally, asks that the recommissioning process is clearly set out and communicated, meets with the principles of ethical commissioning, and that decisions come back to EIJB for board approval.

*Full list of projects retained, for clarity:

Table 4: 1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,22,23,24,26,27,28,29,30,32 (there is no #25 listed)

Table 5: 1,4

Proposed by Cllr Mumford

Seconded by Cllr Nicolson