



Item No: 14

Meeting Date: Wednesday 20th September 2017

Glasgow City Integration Joint Board

Report By: Sharon Wearing, Chief Officer, Finance and Resources

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ASSISTED GARDEN MAINTENANCE

Purpose of Report:	To seek approval of a review of the Assisted Garden Maintenance service.
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Recommendations:	The Integration Joint Board is asked to: a) note this report; b) approve work to verify eligibility for the Assisted Garden Maintenance service as outlined in this report; and, c) direct Glasgow City Council to carry out a review of the service jointly between the Health and Social Care Partnership and Land and Environmental Services, led by the Chief Officer: Finance and Resources.
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Relevance to Integration Joint Board Strategic Plan:

The Assisted Garden Maintenance service is one of the functions delegated to the Integration Joint Board by virtue of the Integration Scheme, and as such is encompassed within the IJB's Strategic Plan. The service can be viewed as helping to achieve the vision of "promoting social wellbeing" as outlined in the Strategic Plan.

Implications for Health and Social Care Partnership:

Reference to National Health & Wellbeing Outcome:	Outcome 4. Health and social care services are centred on helping to maintain or improve the quality of life of people who use those services
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Personnel:	None
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Carers:	Potential impact on carers if a review results in some individuals becoming ineligible for the service and their carer is asked or expected to maintain the gardens instead.	
Provider Organisations:	None	
Equalities:	The service is currently provided to older people who meet specific eligibility criteria. Any review which changes this eligibility criteria will therefore impact particularly on older people. A full EQIA will be carried out ahead of final review recommendations being presented to the IJB.	
Financial:	Financial savings are expected to be realised through removal of the service where the eligibility criteria has not been met.	
Legal:	Section 24(1) of The Local Government and Planning (Scotland) Act 1982 (The provision of gardening assistance for the disabled and the elderly) is a function delegated to the IJB under the terms of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 and the Integration Scheme	
Economic Impact:	The service is provided by Jobs and Business Glasgow under a service level agreement with Land and Environmental Services. Review of the service model may therefore impact on Jobs and Business Glasgow and their clients.	
Sustainability:	None	
Sustainable Procurement and Article 19:	None	
Risk Implications:	None	
Implications for Glasgow City Council:	Officers from Land and Environmental Services, and potentially elsewhere in the Council, will be required to participate in review activity and implement any review outcomes as directed by the IJB.	
Implications for NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde:	Should review outcomes include a requirement that individuals present medical evidence of inability to maintain their garden, there may be demand for GP letters to support this.	
Direction Required to Council, Health Board or Both	Direction to:	
	1. No Direction Required	
	2. Glasgow City Council	✓
	3. NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	
	4. Glasgow City Council and NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to seek approval of a review of the Assisted Garden Maintenance service.

2. Background

- 2.1 Section 24(1) of The Local Government and Planning (Scotland) Act 1982 (The provision of gardening assistance for the disabled and the elderly) is a function delegated to the IJB under the terms of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 and the Integration Scheme.
- 2.2 The Council currently delivers the Assisted Garden Maintenance service under direction from the IJB, via Land and Environmental Services who have a service level agreement with Jobs and Business Glasgow for delivery.
- 2.3 The service has a budget in 2017/18 of £1.29m and covers 7 grass cuts and 2 hedge trims per year for eligible individuals or households. The service is currently delivered to approximately 14,600 addresses across the city.
- 2.4 The service is currently provided free of charge to individuals who meet the eligibility criteria. Councils are permitted to charge for this service, and a significant majority of other local authorities currently do so.

3. Application of Current Eligibility Criteria

- 3.1 The service is currently available to residents of Glasgow who meet the following criteria:
- The householder is a registered Council Tax Payer
 - The householder is over 70 years of age
 - The householder has a medical condition that prevents them from maintaining the garden
 - There are no able bodied persons between the ages of 16 and 69 in the household
- 3.2 An examination of the list of current recipients of this service has identified some potential anomalies. As of May 2017, matching the 14,600 addresses against Carefirst, the Council's care management system, has identified that 211 clients are in residential care and a further 733 are recorded as deceased – suggesting some 944 addresses currently receiving the service but where nobody eligible for the service may be resident.
- 3.3 In addition, there may be a number of other addresses where the individual(s) receiving the service may have ceased to be eligible for other reasons, for example as a result of a younger able-bodied person moving into the property with them such as an adult son or daughter returning to the family home.

3.4 It is proposed that a review be carried out of addresses currently receiving the service to ensure only those who are eligible continue to receive the service.

4. Review of Service Model

4.1 It is further proposed that the current model of the Assisted Garden Maintenance service as a whole be reviewed to ensure that the service can continue to be provided to those most in need.

4.2 This review would be led by the Chief Officer, Finance and Resources and would look at the eligibility criteria for the service, delivery model, administration, funding and potential for income generation.

4.3 The review is expected to be carried out during the remainder of 2017, with recommendations about future arrangements to the Integration Joint Board at its scheduled meeting of 24 January 2018.

5. Recommendations

5.1 The Integration Joint Board is asked to:

- a) note this report;
- b) approve work to verify eligibility for the Assisted Garden Maintenance service as outlined in this report; and,
- c) direct Glasgow City Council to carry out a review of the service jointly between the Health and Social Care Partnership and Land and Environmental Services, led by the Chief Officer: Finance and Resources.

DIRECTION FROM THE GLASGOW CITY INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

1	Reference number	200917-14-a
2	Date direction issued by Integration Joint Board	20 September 2017
3	Date from which direction takes effect	20 September 2017
4	Direction to:	Glasgow City Council
5	Does this direction supersede, amend or cancel a previous direction – if yes, include the reference number(s)	No
6	Functions covered by direction	Assisted Garden Maintenance
7	Full text of direction	Glasgow City Council are directed to carry out a review of the Assisted Garden Maintenance service jointly between the Health and Social Care Partnership and Land and Environmental Services, led by the Chief Officer: Finance and Resources.
8	Budget allocated by Integration Joint Board to carry out direction	Assisted Garden Maintenance has a budget of £1.29m in 2017/18
9	Performance monitoring arrangements	Via the agreed performance management and financial monitoring frameworks of the Glasgow City Integration Joint Board and the Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership.
10	Date direction will be reviewed	January 2018