



# Minutes of the August 18, 2008 meeting of the Learning Disability Forum in Nungate Community Centre, Haddington.

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## Who was there?

Willie Ferguson	Service User
John Flynn	People First
James Scott	<b>ELVOS</b>
Margaret Cessford	Smart Talk and LD Forum rep
Robert Auld	Smart Talk and LD Forum rep
Julie Gray	Support Worker
Kirstin Doherty	Service User
Graham Watkins	Service User
Lorna Wynn	<b>Partners in Advocacy</b>
Sue Green	Local Area Co-ordinator
Shannon Leslie	Planning and Commissioning Office ELC
Charlotte Elder	Service User
Val Vincent	Carer Member
Lesley Aithenhead	<b>ELCCF Development Manager</b>
George Paterson	<b>ELCCF Communications Worker</b>

## June Report:

Forum Members accepted the reported minutes of the June 2 meeting.

## Matters Arising:

**Forum members** commented favourably on the ELCCF annual event in June 25 in the Trinity Centre, Haddington. The agm and ceilidh went down well, with members enjoying the evening.

*"There was only one thing wrong - it wasn't long enough."*

Lesley thanked accordionist John Cessford and his drummer colleague Alex who provided the music for the evening.

## **News:**

**Robert and Margaret** reported on the recent successful music and slides presentation given by **Partners in Advocacy**, and its Smart Talk group in East Lothian to local Councillors and officials of East Lothian Council in the Town House, Haddington.



The event went down well and gave members the chance to explain in their own words what the group did and the benefits it gave.

## **Talk on the work of ELVOS:**

**Jim Scott** of **ELVOS**, East Lothian Voluntary Opportunities Service, described the work of the organisation.

ELVOS offers a service to people with a range of different disabilities, and works with employers to support employee placements. It has nine employment support workers.

### **Elements of the ELVOS service include:**

- pre-employment advice and support for people seeking employment;
- advice to employers and providing help for recruitment and selection;
- the delivery of ongoing workplace support to employee and employer.

**ELVOS has grown** since it started in 1987 and restructured in 1996. It has 120 clients on 130 placements and 80 on payments, 24 in paid work and 16 on the **Workstep** programme. Being on the programme involves a benefits check, and ELVOS has a strong link with the Disability Employment Manager at Musselburgh Jobcentre

Jim reported that in May there was 40 people on the waiting list for ELVOS services, and the list is now closed as the service works on getting the number down.

An ELVOS Workwise course runs over five weeks and advises clients on what is expected of them, what they can expect from employers, what changes work may have on the structure of their lives and what times they were expected to put in.

Training is also given in transport and travel; finding a route, reading schedules and so on.

Clients could be given references from social workers, **ELCAP**, psychiatric nurses, day services, family or the community. So far, employment partners have included Big W, Scotmid, the King's Manor Hotel, charity shops and East Lothian Council.



The process of matching employers with clients involves the personal approach, linked with:

- a vocational assessment
- agreement on the job
- visiting support
- a yearly development plan and constant monitoring
- the chance for carers to get involved in issues and in the work development plan.

A notebook system is in place to monitor progress with client and employer.

Shannon asked what plans there were to involve more young people from school or college. Jim replied that there were limited staff and resources for ELVOS to expand, especially when it was working to reduce the waiting list.

Jim added that most ELVOS clients had long term employment support needs, and the percentage coming off the list was not high. It was difficult for ELVOS to cater with

One Forum member carer felt there was scope for more involvement in knowing what their relative did, so more support could be given at home.

Shannon is working with East Lothian Day Services manager Margaret Drew and ELVOS to make sure that the employment plan fits into the Learning Disability Strategy, taking into account what people said during the consultations which helped shaped the strategy.

## **How about a Directory of Services?**

**ELCCF had the idea** of putting together a directory of information, such as services, which could be of benefit, and could be published or put online on the website, or both.

George asked Forum members what kinds of information they would like to see and in what format.

Members replied that staff at day centres, schools, adult services and other points of contact for them could all benefit from having a directory.

There was discussion about a 'What's On' - type publication, but bringing it together as a regular job and its cost counted against it.

Members suggested it might be best if information could be heard and replayed if necessary, such as on a CD or DVD. The directory would mainly contain info on contacts, services and organisations, aimed at delivering facts for quick contact.

George suggested the best method of delivery could be on the ELCCF website with updated information regularly available for print out or complete publication.

In terms of leisure and recreation such as theatres and entertainments and the disabled facilities they offer, a new nationwide web service called **Disabled Go** ([www.disabledgo.info](http://www.disabledgo.info)) might be more suitable. **Disabled Go** is launching a section for East Lothian on October 15.



A number of venues were suggested as to where an information leaflet be placed to let people know where the directory and website might be available.

## **Feedback from Joint Planning Group:**

**Robert and Margaret** reported that the documents for the Partnership in Practice agreement were to be put toward officials in October. Robert is due to present recommendations at the **Chief Officers Group**.

Partnership in Practice, or PiP, includes guidelines for learning disability services worked out between health and local authorities.

*"We hope there will be lots of ideas which will be put up the agenda - issues that have take a lot of work and input from a lot of people."*

**The JPG also discussed** respite care and the Scottish Government's proposals on the issue, which were due out next year. Details on financing respite were still to be debated at Government level.

**Two conferences** were mentioned by Robert and Margaret:

- **ARC Scotland's** conference on 'Holiday - what Holiday?' is being held on Wednesday 29th October in Edinburgh, which looks at the barriers that are stopping many many people with learning disabilities get a holiday.
- One of four free **information events** being held across Scotland featuring self directed support, individualised budgets and in-Control is being held by ARC Scotland on Wednesday 10th December, St Columba's, by the Castle Edinburgh.



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**The next meeting of  
East Lothian Learning Disability Forum  
takes place in  
Manxfield Road Resource Centre, Musselburgh,  
on Tuesday 14th October 10.30 - 12.00.**

**Remember to look in at the ELCCF website if you can.  
You'll find these **latest minutes** on the East Lothian  
Learning Disability Forum pages at  
**[www.elccf.org](http://www.elccf.org)****