



# Report of the August 10th, 2009 meeting of the Learning Disability Forum in Port Seton Resource Centre.

- If you receive this report in PDF format, you'll be able to click on the words highlighted in this colour of **red** to link to the relevant site in your web browser.

## Who was there?

Kirstin Doherty	Service User
Lorna Wynn	<b>Partners in Advocacy</b>
Margaret Cessford	Smart Talk and LD Forum rep
Robert Auld	Smart Talk and LD Forum rep
Jean Auld	Smart Talk and LD Forum rep
Sheila Dale	<b>ARC Scotland</b> Support worker
Bobby Dickson	Service User
Sue Green	Local Area Co-ordinator
Mike Foley	Tynebank Day Centre
Willie Ferguson	Service user
Carla Hulbert	Service user
Paul Roger	<b>ELCAP</b> board, Smart Talk
Irene Gray	Link Living
Graham Watkins	Service user
Shannon Leslie	Planning and Commissioning, ELC
George Paterson	<b>ELCCF Communications Worker</b>
Lesley Aithenhead	<b>ELCCF Development Manager</b>

## News:

Forum members gave a roundup of recent news and events in their lives. Carla mentioned **dates-n-mates**, a new dating and friendship agency for and run by people with learning disabilities. It was launched in June in Glasgow.

## Matters arising: Council Procurement of Services

Shannon reported on the progress of the council's new procurement procedure.

Visit the Learning Disability Forum on the web at [www.elccf.org/forumld.asp](http://www.elccf.org/forumld.asp)

The first stage of the process for generic, or all-round, services was already on the go. The second stage, for specialist services such as those for people with learning disabilities was being delayed for more thinking to go into it and to allow more people to give their opinion.



Since Partners in Advocacy's petition to the council (see *the last report of the LD Forum*), the procurement process for specialist services has been put on hold for two or three months.

The people responsible for organising the services, East Lothian Council, the Care at Home project management board and the Care at Home project team are setting up a Getting It Right Group, also known as a User Intelligence Group.

On the group will be procurement project manager Sam McLean, the planning officer for each of the joint planning groups, one of the health managers from the JPG, a project team worker, social worker and money manager. As for users and carers, Shannon said there would be a list of people who receive LD services to be contacted. Also, Lorna, Margaret and Robert would be on the group.

There will be one group each for Learning Disability, Older People, Mental Health and Physical Disability.

### **Procurement:**

Sometimes people working outside East Lothian Council are hired by the council to do specialised work for the council. This 'hiring' is called procurement, or, how the council 'buys-in' services.

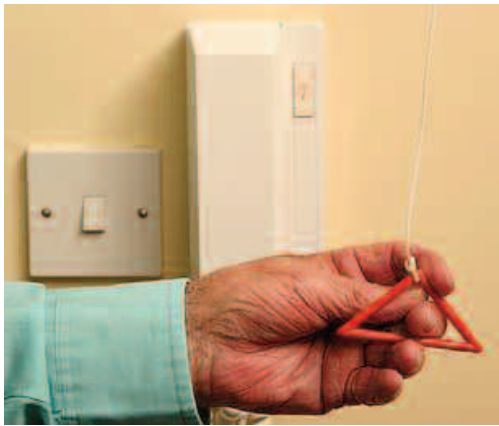
The Council are changing the way it **procures 'care-at-home' services**, such as home helps. This is bound to effect the people of the ELCCF Forum communities.

If you, your family or carer have any response of opinion on the procurement issue, you can let us know on the **Learning Disability Have Your Say** page on the **ELCCF website**,

Or, contact ELCCF at ELCCF, c/o Tynepark House, Poldrate, Haddington, EH41 4DA, email [info@elccf.org](mailto:info@elccf.org), or phone 01620 822 212.

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## News from Smart Talk Group:



Jean said the Smart Talkers had gone to see the telecare show house in Tranent. The house is fitted with alarms showing what's available to help the tenant live a more secure, independent life.

Shannon said the council was working on finding providers to respond in support of people with the alarms.

Robert said there was a plan to have the three East Lothian Smart Talk groups brought together to meet as one in one place at least once a week, so as to make better use of Lorna's time. People in the groups were talking about this but transport was a problem as was getting for information about the meetings out to people.



Lesley said the Forum might be able to help with its transport costs and will discuss with Gordon Miller.

## Respite:

Shannon told the Forum that East Lothian's Respite Services Co-ordination Manager, Vanessa Strong is moving on to a new position within the NHS.

This was a setback, but Vanessa had made some successful progress. She has arranged to get the old warden's house at Well Wynd, Tranent, lined up for use as a respite home-from-home, with three bedrooms which could be used by guests and their carers.



It was an experiment to see how well it could work with people with any respite needs and could be the first step towards more premises for East Lothian.

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## Partnership in Practice:

The PiP document - the action plan from the Joint Planning Group - should be available in an easy-read document by the end of September, along with the bigger Lothian strategy.

Shannon said the main priorities of the PiP were:

- Self directed support, where service users took control over their money for services they receive.

East Lothian Council has no policy on Self Directed Support, so the planning group are drafting one for approval by councillors and officials. Training is also important for everybody to understand what happens with Self Directed Support, so Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living, **LCIL**, has been contacted for training and advice to be given.

Shannon said it may be two years before Self Directed Support is fully working.

- Transition; where there was a easy flow of services from childhood to adulthood, then to older age and retirement. The council is working toward having an all-in-one service, rather than have three services for different age groups.

A pilot programme involving young people coming into social care at 16 was being lined up as an experiment. A 'transitions fair' might be held for young people by Catherine Dempsey, who is involved with the council's transitions work.



- Housing; the ELC housing department don't have enough information about people's housing needs, so Shannon and her colleagues at the council have to come up with ways of letting them know.

In all three areas, the council are laying the groundwork for major changes and are hoping to involve people in planning as much as possible.

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### **Any Other Business:**

- Willie said there should be funding for the People First worker, who just now is a volunteer.
- There was some discussion of the change in transport services being undertaken in East Lothian by the Scottish Ambulance Service. Lesley suggested the SAS's Jeanette Jeffrey be invited along to the forum to answer questions and hear concerns.
- Alan Brown went along to an NHS consultation event on disabilities. He took copies of reports of forum meetings to tell others at the meeting of the issues faced by people attending the forums.

**The next meeting of East Lothian Learning Disability Forum will be on Monday, October 12 at 10.30-12.00 noon in Port Seton Resource Centre, South Seton Park EH32 0BQ. Contact ELCCF c/o Tynepark House, Poldrate, Haddington EH41 4DA. Tel: 01620 822212, email [info@elccf.org](mailto:info@elccf.org). Visit [www.elccf.org](http://www.elccf.org).**



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You can now write in  
and 'Have Your Say' at  
[www.elccf.org/  
yourvoice.htm](http://www.elccf.org/yourvoice.htm)

ELCCF consults widely.  
It links into local groups to  
enable views from the 'grass  
roots' to be heard at the  
planning table.  
"Transport is a real issue. Getting  
around and about is a real issue  
for those of us in wheelchairs or  
who have a sensory impairment."  
"People's care packages should  
focus on the needs of the  
individual - not to fit in with  
existing services."  
"It's important to get better  
support for carers."

We'd be happy to see you.

We think a lot about how people are treated in community care.  
Carers, service users, health service providers and local authority  
representatives regularly attend Forum meetings.



We also discuss, and help to advise on, local plans and  
national policy affecting people of the Forum communities.  
If we get hot under the collar about matters important to us,  
we can let off some of the steam together - and try to get  
something done.



The Forums are lively and welcoming. They give us a chance to  
talk about the things that affect us, and what can be done to  
lead our lives as independently as possible. Whether it's earning  
a wage, recreation, respite care, or that old subject transport...  
we always have something to talk about.



say' about how health and community care services are planned and  
delivered. ELCCF has, under its wing, four speciality Forums which meet  
regularly. Common issues are discussed, stories are shared, and concerns,  
views and ideas are put to the people who make the decisions.



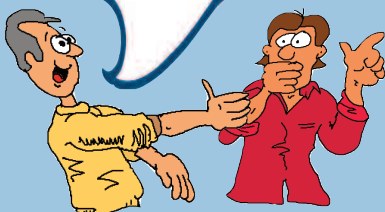
**Community Care Services**  
aim to enable people to stay in  
their own homes, and give them  
choice and control over their lives.

People and their carers who engage  
with services have a special  
knowledge. They have experience of  
living with an illness or impairment,  
or providing care for a loved one.

First hand experience is very  
valuable to help improve services for  
the people who need them.

A lot of people need services, so it's  
important for everyone that the  
money is spent fairly, and in the  
most effective way.

This is where *your* voice counts.



Visit  
the Forum's Website at  
[www.elccf.org](http://www.elccf.org)



The website has news and  
scheduled dates of the Forum  
meetings, reports of past  
meetings, information, links to  
other organisations and  
resources - and a chance to  
**Have Your Say.**

East Lothian Community Care Forum,  
c/o Tynepark House, Poldrate,  
Haddington EH41 4DA.  
Tel: 01620 822 212 email: [info@elccf.org](mailto:info@elccf.org)  
Scottish charity No. SC029791

We'd  
just like  
to say...



We want our  
voices to be  
heard - here's  
how we do it...

