



Report of the August 11th, 2010 meeting of the Learning Disability Forum in the **Loch Centre, Tranent.**

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Who was there?

Michael O'Neill	Smart Talk Group
Patricia Ferguson	Smart Talk Group
Michael Janey	Smart Talk Group
Kevin O'Neill	Smart Talk Group
Colin Nicoll	Smart Talk Group
Linda Currie	Smart Talk Group
Margaret Cessford	Planning Group Representative
Robert Auld	Planning Group Representative
Jeannie Auld	Management committee ELCCF
Lorna Wynn	Partners in Advocacy, Smart Talk
David Barrie	East Lothian Tenants and Residents Panel
Seonaid Steven	Planning Group Representative, Carer
Ross Macphail	Management committee ELCCF
Shannon Leslie	ELC Planning, Learning Disability
Carrie Poole	Local Area Coordinator, Community Care
Lesley Aitkenhead	ELCCF Development Manager
George Paterson	ELCCF Information Worker

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The meeting was hosted by Partners in Advocacy's Smart Talk group in Tranent and was led by Lorna.

Main order of business was the Partnership in Practice review of services.

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Partnership in Practice:



The PiP is an agreement begun by the Scottish Government between local health, education and social services in Scotland.

The current East Lothian PiP strategy runs from 2008-2011 and the action plan - or how the PiP is to be carried out - covers the 3 years of the strategy. It's due to be renewed again in March/April next year.

The next thing to do is to review what's been done, what's not been done and discover what money might be available for the coming years of work.

Lorna listed areas of work in the PiP:

- Transition, or moving people between children's services and adult services
- Housing
- Day and leisure services
- Community Safety
- Local Area Coordination
- Transport
- Respite and short breaks



Transition

An additional £1.3million is coming from the Council to help young people (16-25yrs) with disabilities into work (Transition). The LD Joint Planning Group might influence how this money could be spent.

An East Lothian Transitions Coordinator has been appointed, **Catherine Dempsey**, who has now completed a person-centred pilot project called the **Big Plan**.

The Big Plan brings together young people preparing to leave school and supports them to form a circle of family and friends

who can help them plan for a good life after school. A transitions fair was held last year.



Housing

The Council's Angela Kenney is on the Learning Disability Joint Planning Group. Lorna said Angela has worked hard on keeping LD issues within the Council's housing strategy. Angela is also asking everyone questions on their **housing needs**.

Angela had spoken at the last Smart Talk meeting.

Some Forum members were concerned that information on the forthcoming housing consultation had not been widespread. The housing consultation takes place after the first report is seen by the Council.

Lorna said the day centres and special interest groups had been contacted by Angela. Shannon said although the will was there, it was hard to contact as many groups and individuals as the Council would like.

Lesley said spreading news of the consultation on housing could be something the Forum could help.

Angela will be bringing the Smart Talk group up to date when she comes back to talk to them in September.

Day Services

Day services are about to be reviewed by the Council. The group have sent in their suggestions - they think centres should be open nights and weekends and offer more chance for socialising.

Lesley said the Forum's Community Action Research project had set out to discover what people with activities physical disabilities did and what they wanted to do. This covered day centres. She asked if the same job could be done for people with learning disabilities.

The groups generally agreed it would be a good plan.

Community Safety

Kevin reported how he had been bullied by high school pupils while trying to get a bus.



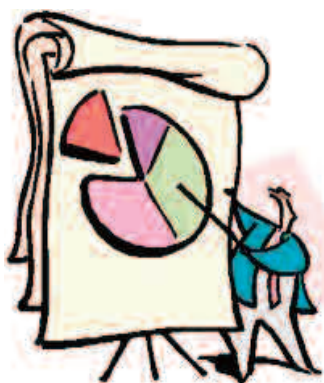
Community policemen had been told and the issue reported to the school. Kevin was going to have his story recorded to be sent to London as part of a national inquiry into bullying.

Plans are to write to the school involved and write a role-play that the pupils could be involved in.

Lorna said the problem of bullying was wider and affected other parts of the PiP - for example, people with disabilities were afraid to go out in the evening when it's dark, especially in winter. Even during the day some people were afraid to go out, or their carers were afraid of having them travel on their own.

The Council were trying to set up a system of 'remote reporting' where disabled people could report bullying to other people as well as the police, such as shopkeepers, community wardens or service providers. Right now there was little information on what to do or who to contact over bullying.

Lesley suggested the Forum link with Smart Talk and **People First** to develop a video highlighting the problem.



Local Area Coordination

Local Area Coordinator Carrie Poole said LAC funding was ongoing till March next year. Work was also going on as to how the **LAC service** was linking in to other services. LAC was under review throughout Scotland, and each local authority has its own way of going about how the service works in its own area.

The Community Circle group was going strong for disabled and non-disabled in the Haddington area for people with various skills and information to meet socially and share news and information.

Respite

Carers of East Lothian's Tony Segall was looking into respite services and drawing up a report on how such services might be run in East Lothian.

- Tony has called for comments of the idea of a respite bureau - like a travel bureau - where breaks could be tailored to the individual and carer's needs.
- He also asked for reaction on support for people looking for respite and advice for people who have money through self directed support.
- The possibility of using the house at Well Wynd, Tranent, as a place for short time respite was also to be discussed by the forthcoming LD joint planning group.



Transport to and from venues for respite was raised by the group as a problem to be considered in the strategy.

Any other business:

Bereavement

There was some talk about what help was there for learning disabled people trying to find support in times of bereavement.

Members of the group offered help in trying to find out what groups or professional help there may be. The group agreed that there's a lack of specialised counselling support for Learning Disabled people.

Social networking

There was discussion about the need for more widespread ways of giving and getting information about consultations, social events and just staying in touch.

It was agreed that more imaginative and sympathetic ways of spreading relevant information to different groups was needed.

Issues to be taken to the Planning Group:

- How can service users and carers influence how the Transitions money is spent?
- How can we influence the Day Care Services review?
- Find out the Council's plans for Local Area Co-ordination.
- Raise the issue of little or no specialised counselling support for Learning Disabled people in East Lothian.

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The next meeting of East Lothian Learning Disability Forum will be on Tynebank Day Centre, 16 Kirk View, Haddington.

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ELCCF has moved!

ELCCF's office can now be found at 3/4 Sidegate, Haddington EH41 4BT.

Tel: 01620 822212, email info@elccf.org.

Visit www.elccf.org.