



Report of the July 7th, 2010 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?

Tony Segall	Carers of East Lothian
David Barrie	East Lothian Tenants and Residents Panel
Seonaid Steven	Planning Group Representative, Carer
Ross Macphail	Management committee ELCCF
Colin Nicoll	Smart Talk Group
Shannon Leslie	ELC Planning, Learning Disability
Margaret Cessford	Planning Group Representative
Robert Auld	Planning Group Representative
Jeannie Auld	Management committee ELCCF
Donald Todd	Smart Talk Group
Linda Currie	Smart Talk Group
Sue van den Broek	Carer, Planning Group Representative
Lorna Wynn	Partners in Advocacy , Smart Talk
Carrie Poole	Local Area Coordinator, Community Care
Alan Brown	Convener, ELCCF
Lesley Aitkenhead	ELCCF Development Manager
George Paterson	ELCCF Information Worker

Redesigning Respite: Tony Segall

Tony has the job of redesigning respite services in East Lothian. The work is to take him two days a week for two years. He has to come up with a strategy - a plan for the Council and Health to follow.

Just now, he's gathering information from all sources, including service users.

Tony presented papers to the Forum summing up the main points of his research work so far, and listing the places currently used, offering residential respite for people under 65.

His review is to cover:

- respite where the carers benefit as well as the person they are looking after
- overnight respite
- planned and emergency respite.



Tony said that of the 422 people who are in contact with care services, only 42 have overnight residential respite - about one in ten.

**Respite
- give us a break.**

Forum members were in general agreement that respite services for East Lothian had needed to be planned properly for years with a real policy underlying them. Respite is an old issue and is a low priority in the council's Partners in Practice, or PiP, review.

Forum members said:

"People's hearts sink when you mention respite. It's been gone over time and time again."

"People have to get respite or they get ill."

"Getting money for respite doesn't go far enough - it needs somebody to know what's available and what can be organised for the service user and the carer."

"There's a lot of people who don't know they're entitled to respite. The level of confusion is enormous."

"I managed to get a break this year for the first time in 21 years. There's something fundamentally wrong here."

Forum members thought the issue of respite needed the attention of all four ELCCF Forums. It was agreed to organise a general meeting with members of all four groups; Learning Disability, Mental Health, Older People and Equality, to inform Tony and discuss the issue.

Tony was also urged to include 'lived experiences' in his report.

Sharing News:

Cuts:

There was discussion and worries voiced about changes in assessments for Disability Living Allowance and the Independent Living Fund. Members agreed this should be the focus of the next LD Forum.

Buses and Bullying:

Forum members said some of their fellow members and they themselves had been the victims of bullying on buses and bus stops by younger people. Lorna said these had been taken up by Partners in Advocacy's Smart Talk, and Port Seton Resource Centre. It had been reported to the Council as **hate crime**.



The Forum heard personal experiences from members on abuse they had suffered.

Smart Talk are circulating information on the issue to centres, and in particular are set to meet teachers and pupils at Ross High. The group were also working on the Human Rights Commission inquiry on harassment.

David said East Lothian had teams of Community Wardens in every town, had an **Anti Social Behaviour Team**. Regular meetings were held with the county's Community Policemen.

Although taking a responsibility for bullying, forum members said they did not know how to contact such groups or know who to tell.

One Forum member said:

"My experience of using the anti-social behaviour officers is that they were very poorly informed about learning disabilities, autism and related conditions."

Ceilidh:

Donald said he had raised more than £600 from a ceilidh in May - funds going to the Sick Children's Hospital. His picture had appeared in the paper.

Report from the Joint Planning Group

Partnership in Practice:

The current 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.

Shannon said there were 12 items of work listed in the PiP - three to be taken forward in the first year as agreed with the Joint Planning Group.

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.

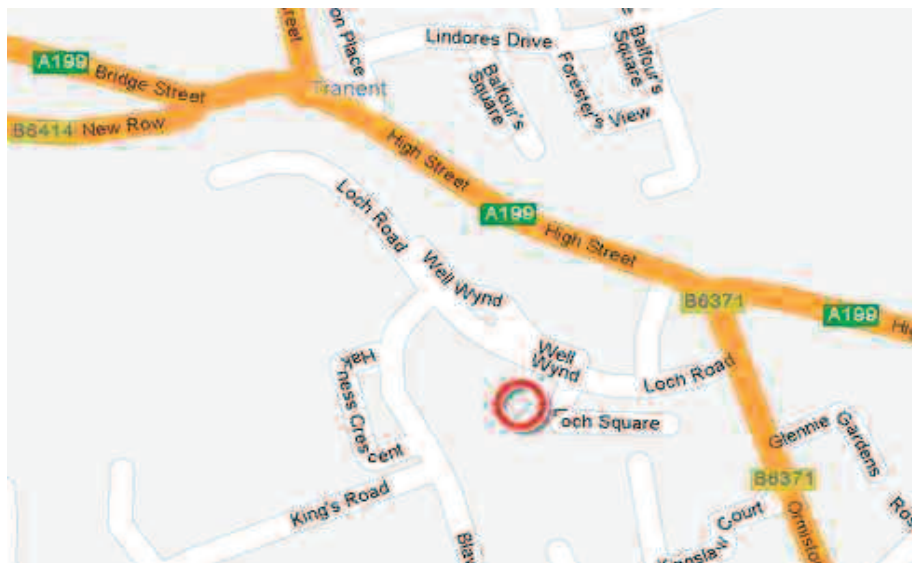
She reported an additional £1.3million has been allocated from the Council to help young people (16-25yrs) with disabilities into work. The Joint Planning Group might influence how this money could be spent.

It was generally felt there was no time left to discuss things further. More on the PiP and its action plan will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

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The next meeting of East Lothian Learning Disability Forum will be on Wednesday, August 11 at 12.30 in the Loch Centre, Well Wynd, Tranent EH33 2JX.

Contact ELCCF c/o Tynepark House, Poldrate, Haddington EH41 4DA. Tel: 01620 822212, email info@elccf.org. Visit www.elccf.org.





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.



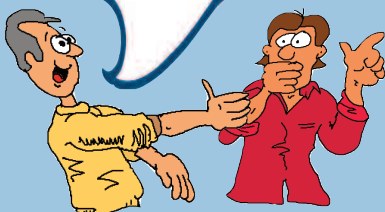
Community Care Services
aim to enable people to stay in
their own homes, and give them
choice and control over their lives.

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



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.

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Scottish charity No. SC029791

We'd
just like
to say...



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

