



Report of the September 5, 2011 meeting of the Learning Disability Forum in **Port Seton Resource Centre.**

➤ If you get 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?

Margaret Cessford
Chris Lewis
Janette Statham
Carrie Poole
Leah Davis
Mairi Reid
Margaret Drew
Steven Nelson
Julie Oswald
Patty Gordon
John Buckley
Jean Auld
Robert Auld
Sue van der Broek
Lesley Aitkenhead
Karen Hamilton

Service User
East Lothian Council
ELCAP
Local Area Co-ordinator
Action Group
Service User
Adult Services East Lothian Council
Beyond Boundaries
CoEL, Shirt Breaks Development
Parent
Parent/ carer
Smart Talk, LD Planning Group rep.
Smart Talk, LD Planning Group rep.
Carer
ELCCF Development Manager
ELCCF Development Worker

Mansfield Place service users: Robert, Craig, Carla, Liz, Fiona, Kevin, Alan, Sharon and Jim.

Matters arising from last meeting:

College courses

There was discussion about access to college courses. Most colleges have withdrawn many of the courses they had run for people with special needs. There does not seem to be many opportunities for people to join in mainstream classes with support.

Colleges are also running tight budgets and it was felt that they might be more receptive to running a course if they were asked to cater for groups of people.

Action: Members agreed to invite someone from Jewel and Esk College to the next meeting.

My achievements

Members shared with the group their achievements or things they had done of which they were proud:

- Rosettes for Horse Riding
- Completed courses in: Health Matters, Exploring Options
- Working in a charity shop
- Listening and talking at meetings
- Participating in the Moveable Feast drama performance
- A sponsored buggy ride
- Scoring goals at football



What's happening at the planning group

Lesley explained how planning objectives of the Council and Planning Group have to match with those of the Scottish Government, and most importantly with what people need.



East Lothian Council says:

- We want to deliver services that help people live more independent, healthier lives.

Joint Planning Group says:

Services should help people to:

- Have a choice of things to do – during the day, evening and weekends.
- Have good support, particularly for people with complex needs.
- Good support for carers.
- Help to live as independent and healthy life as possible.
- A home that suits you

What you have said at our forums:

I would like:

- To be as independent as possible.
- To take part in community life.
- To access learning and education.
- To have a social life that I choose – I want to meet friends and people that know me.
- To feel safe and want people to understand what my problems are.
- To get good quality support when I need it.
- To access work or support work opportunities.
- To get help and advice to keep healthy.
- To feel safe – people understand what my problems are.

All three parties are saying similar things. It is the job of the planning group now to make up a new plan for the next year. This would aim to make sure that service users and carers have access to the support and services that help them to lead as independent life as possible.

An important part of this plan is the re-design of day services.

Day service redesign

Lesley explained that East Lothian Council is reviewing day service provision across the county starting with Mansfield Road Centre.

Mansfield Day Centre has been piloting a change in service by re-deploying activities usually run in the centre on a Monday and a Friday into venues in the community.



One of the parent carers said: "We shouldn't be closing the centres, we should be extending their hours and making them more suited to people with complex needs."

Carla and Seonaid, representatives on the re-design team, spoke to members about the pilot scheme and asked what had happened to it.

Margaret Drew said the pilot has been extended. An independent evaluation is being carried out by **Partners in Advocacy** and will be available in the near future.

For the pilot, groups were split up and some service users no longer had contact with some of their friends.

Carla reported what many other services users were feeling: "I really miss some of my friends."

It was agreed by everybody at the meeting that the pilot should not be about taking the service out of the centre and placing it into the community. It should be done creatively, supported by link workers who could arrange for groups of friends to meet up or keep in touch.

Action: Margaret Drew acknowledged Carla's point and will look into this.

Carers meeting with Murray Leys

Seonaid said the Mansfield carers' group feel 'that it's all a bit of a muddle'.

The carers' group invited Murray Leys, Head of Adult Social Care, to meet them. They asked some questions and the following responses were given:

- Murray Leys confirmed that Mansfield Road will close. The timeline give for this is approx. 2 years.
- The building is not fit for purpose and much of it is inaccessible to service users.
- The service redesign team are responsible for the change in services.
- Not all the money saved by the re-provision will be re-invested.

Seonaid stressed it was important to speak out now.

One voice said: "The redesign team need to reassure carers and service users that any new developments will not be a 2nd-hand service."

It was felt the service redesign team need to look at the whole service across East Lothian and not just Mansfield in isolation.

"Having just one centre for East Lothian is not the answer – it didn't work in Edinburgh."

No audit has yet been carried out of what other accessible community places are available in the Musselburgh area. The service redesign team need to produce a clear strategy that we can all understand.

"It's time to come up with options that we can work with."

"People don't always know what they want because they haven't tried it – is it possible to get tasters/experience in different ways of doing things?"

Margaret Drew acknowledged many of the concerns raised and said that the re-design team is looking at different models across the country and wants to get this right.

Who is represented on the re-design team?

- Service users, Carla Hubert, Jeannie & Robert Auld are supported by Partners In Advocacy.
- Service users with complex needs are represented by the organisation **Pamis**.
- Seonaid and Patti are representing the views of Mansfield Road Carers.
- Lesley Aitkenhead attends this meeting in a supporting role to the above members.

The question was asked whether there should be representation from carers from other areas. Margaret said that the group is already very large and the current priority is on redesigning services in the west of the county.

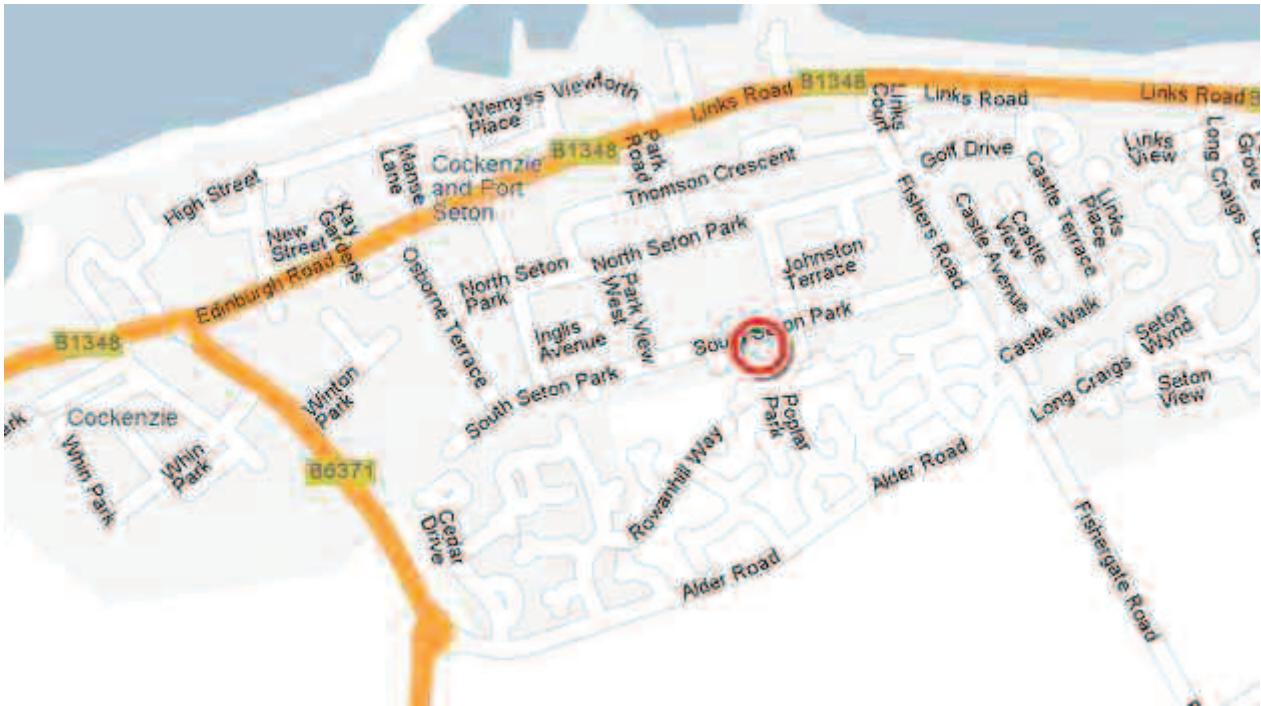
Members agreed that this had been a good meeting enabling people to voice their concerns and anxieties about the Mansfield redesign process.

There was a combined recommendation from service users and carers that there needs to be much more clarity about process. Plenty of data has been collected – it is now time to do some serious planning and come up with options!

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The date and venue of the next meeting of East Lothian Learning Disability Forum will be on Monday December 12th, Port Seton Centre, South Seton Park, 10.30am-noon.

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You can contact the ELCCF office with any comments or views at 3-4 Sidegate, Haddington EH 41 4BT, telephone 01620 822 212. Email: info@elccf.org or tell us at the **Have Your Say section of the **ELCCF** website www.elccf.org
ELCCF: SCO 28791.**