



# Report of the

## March 15, 2011 meeting of the Mental Health Forum in Tynepark Resource Centre, Haddington.

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### Who was there:

Ross Macphail  
Laurelle Edmunds  
Veronica Forrest  
Ken Morrice  
David Barrie  
Helen Dalley  
Nikki Moran  
Andrew Kernohan  
George Paterson

MH Forum Representative  
Carers of East Lothian, Mental Health Joint Planning Group  
Tynepark  
Crossreach, Tynepark Manager  
ELCCF  
Haddington CAB  
CAPS  
NHS/ Independent  
ELCCF Communications Worker

### Apologies:

Apologies from Myra Waugh of Befrienders, Linden Ross of Home-Start and Fiona Graham, OT service manager.

### Previous Report/ Matters arising:

- Forum members approved the January report.
- Laurelle thanked all who attended the Public Partnership Forum, which met in Musselburgh on the same afternoon as the January MH Forum.
- Ross reported on progress regarding the specification for mental health day services, as the Forum's interim representative on the group examining what day services may look like.

Services currently being delivered by Crossreach at Tynepark will soon be out to tender.

As part of the consultation process on the spec for services, public meetings have been held. A questionnaire for groups and individuals complements the process. It is expected that a final draft spec will be put to the Joint MH Planning Group in April for approval.

A meeting was being held that afternoon (March 15) to check on the number of returned questionnaires - due in the previous week - to review the consultation events, and to decide on next steps.

One Forum member was wary of a premature judgement on the exercise from the Council. It was claimed that at a recent public meeting in Dunbar held before the consultation process was over and where the tendering issue was raised, an official had suggested that people were in favour of a service local to them.

Crossreach service users at Tynepark present at that meeting had spoken against the idea, and stressed that services available from Crossreach at Tynepark should have been highlighted as a takeup option in the questionnaire.

One Tynepark service user suggested that to redress the balance, a Tynepark questionnaire be distributed to the same circulation. Nikki said she would pass on the request to the subgroup and JPG and ask Tony Segall to reply.

Disappointment also expressed was over the amount of time the consultation process, which began in June 2010, was taking.

It was suggested that once the process was over and the JPG had evaluated the information, the chair or a member of the Planning Group be invited to report back to the MH Forum.

One forum member who had attended the public stakeholders' event on the Sense of Belonging Strategy on February 25 reported back.

She said she had been at a workshop table where mental health day centres had been discussed and applauded as a good idea by those at the table, yet believed at the later summing up, the strength of opinion was not carried on to the wider meeting as a whole.

### **Report from JPG**

Nikki reported that JPG chair Ian Johnston and head of Adult Social Care Murray Leys had met to improve the availability of JPG minutes, which should be available on the council's website.

This has followed comments made over some time as to access to the minutes.

Nikki said Linda Irvine, NHS Lothian's Strategic Programme Manager for mental health and well being, had found funding for a website which would host information on mental health issues for East Lothian. It was suggested either Linda or the EL Councillor on the Community Health Partnership be contacted to find out progress on the website.

The lack of such an information resource was identified as a gap in services by the MH Forum some time ago. Another pinpointed need was for crisis support, an issue which Nikki said was being kept on the JPG agenda.

### **The Future of the Forum**

The first steps were to help Forum members navigate the future of the Forum and create an action plan for the coming year.

Following on from priorities settled at the last MH Forum, the renaming of the Forum took up the bulk of the rest of the meeting.

A number of suggestions were raised and debated at the meeting. After much discussion, it was decided to see if two new names were fit for purpose, 'Hear Me' and 'Mind Matters'.

More work on reviewing the remit of the Forum and plotting what progress could be made to refresh the work of the Forum and involve more service users and care will be held at the next meeting of the Forum.

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**The next meeting of East Lothian Mental Health Forum - will be held at 10.30am on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at Tynepark Resource Centre, Haddington EH41 4DA.**

**You can contact the office with any comments or views at [info@elccf.org](mailto:info@elccf.org) or Tell us at the **Have Your Say** section of the **ELCCF** website [www.elccf.org](http://www.elccf.org)**