

## NOTES OF MEETING, Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2017

### JOINT PHYSICAL DISABILITY PLANNING GROUP

1. **APOLOGIES:** Sheena Wight, Karl Vanter, Sara Taylor, Karen McGowan, Ann Morrison, Eric Johnstone, LACs
2. **ATTENDEES:** Tom Welsh (Chair), Jayne Lewis, Marlene Gill, Mike Harrison, Jeff Adamson, Catriona Luff, Gillian Chapman
3. **NOTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING, 2<sup>nd</sup> May**  
Agreed

#### 4. MATTERS ARISING

##### **Lothian Neurological Improvement Plan**

No update on response given to Sue Ryder's FOI or letter to Eibhlin. Still no movement on the plan at Lothian level or information being shared by the Alliance on their work. Issue of the gap in provision of respite and other facilities for adults with neuro conditions and physical disabilities in general however, still a very obvious gap in provision locally. Jayne advised that Becky Hilton (social worker) is working on pulling together information on availability and options within roughly an hours travel of Midlothian. Tom suggested Mathew Kurl has data which could at least help us quantify the need and also that Sheena may have useful Health data. Catriona highlighted the need to be recording the unmet need and suggested that this should be passed to Becky for recording, at least providing a snapshot within a limited period. Jayne and Catriona will follow this up.

##### **Rail Awareness Day**

Mike updated on what was a useful but in some respects disorganised event. Karl is currently considering how to build an appropriate event for Midlothian despite the inability to have an actual train available at a Midlothian station purely for the trial.

#### 5. ACTION PLAN UPDATES

**SDS** Jeff updated on the SDS Reference group – currently been put on hold. Now that Becky Hilton is back, she is trying to get this up and running again with 'In Control' having agreed to facilitate the group. This is seen as more impartial and therefore more effective. The publications and newsletters as per the Action Plan are all up to date with one final one currently under production – likely to be after the summer now before it is published.  
( Jeff)

**Housing and Adaptations** The "Support to Move" leaflet has now been published and is being well received. It is available in all Libraries. Catriona/Gillian advised they intent to promote further through 'In Brief' (in house magazine) GP surgeries and the Wellbeing Service. Also to make use of the Council Website and Facebook page. Catriona/Gillian)  
Catriona also advised that quarterly meetings now take place between OTs and Housing

to discuss amongst other things, new build projects. This is ensuring that emerging needs are taken into account when planning future developments eg 2 bariatric houses are going to be included in the rebuilt housing next to Newbyres care Home – the first in Scotland!

**Income and Welfare Reform** Midlothian is the third Scottish area to move over to Universal Credit and this has brought with it , the expected difficulties, placing huge demands on our Welfare Rights Team. Library staff have received training to be able to assist people with the completion on the new forms. MFIN and the Delivery Group working closely with DWP. Grapevine provides a service specifically for Disabled people – Midlothian cut their funding and so it is no longer available to people from Midlothian. East Lothian also cut this funding but have now re-instated it, recognising the need for it. Tom suggested it would be good to get some figures from CAB and our Welfare Rights Team to identify the need **Jayne/Tom** to follow up.

Re Income Maximisation, Tom advised that Midlothian HSCP recognise the huge significance of poverty in terms of health and wellbeing and are committed to tackling it through a variety of means.

### **Communication Group**

Jayne advised that the group met again last week to discuss the provision of the planned newsletter which will be produced following this meeting, to include a setting out of the purpose of the newsletter and an update on the last 2 JPDPG meetings. Content and distribution discussed further and Tom highlighted the need for the layout and content to be very carefully considered to ensure we make people want to read it and hopefully respond to it. Information cannot be detailed – need to direct people to where the detail can be found , if they require it. Proposed that info on this meeting should focus on 1.The new Housing booklet, 2. Impact of Welfare changes and 3. Transport. Distribution should be initially :- the ForwardMid distribution list, the people who attended consultation events and Adult Health & Social Care staff. **Jayne** to look at a document Brian Parris created around Dementia for an example. **LACs** have kindly offered to assist with the distribution of the newsletter, posting out where required.

**Health and Wellbeing** Tom updated that the Wellbeing Service run by Thistle Foundation is now operational in 8 GP practices across Midlothian. Mental Health issues emerging as the primary condition making use of it, although this usually comes along with other health issues/LTC and disabilities. Funding however runs out in March 18 so service currently being evaluated to hopefully justify ongoing funding. Healthcare Improvement Scotland is supporting this project as it ties in with their idea of GP Link Workers.

### **6. Concessionary Travel Consultation**

Jayne highlighted the consultation which she had circulated to the group. Concern voiced that given current transport barriers faced by disabled people, cost does/could add significantly. **Karl** will update us at a later meeting.

Gillian highlighted the new Border Bus Service which is now operating having taken over from First Bus. There is currently an online survey underway relating to the service . As most buses seems to be new however , hopefully they will all be accessible.

## **7. Future venues for meetings/Fire Safety issues**

Following the evacuation of Fairfield House during our last meeting in May, issues were highlighted relating to the evacuation of people in wheelchairs from the first floor. Provision for this proved inadequate on the day however, thankfully, it was only a drill and not a real fire. It seems prudent therefore to hold all future meetings in ground floor accessible meeting rooms. Jayne has booked a meeting space at the Lasswade Centre which is ground floor, level access and adequate size. The only issue is that there are no windows. The Community Hospital meeting room has now also been highlighted as a possibility as was the dining room at Cowan Court. **All** Group members must therefore always check agenda carefully to be clear as to where each meeting is being held as this is now likely to regularly change.

## **8. Terms of Reference**

Jayne has updated the terms of reference for the group. Will circulate this for comment and suggestions re membership etc ( **All**). Tom suggested that Rona Duncan who has been seconded to HSCP from Police Scotland would be interested in attending although not necessarily every meeting- **Jayne** to invite.

## **9. AOCB**

### **Life Curve**

Catrina informed the group about ALIP (Active and independent Living Improvement Programme -Allied Health professionals ) and a major study recently undertaken by the Scottish Govt in conjunction with Newcastle Uni, to assess the work being undertaken in the community and to develop the idea of a 'Life Curve' which lists a series of skills which are lost in order of time and as mobility etc decreases. The idea is that if the point on the curve is identified, appropriate intervention can prevent or at least delay decline to the next likely skill loss.

### **SGN**

This gas company is currently offering free, lockable valves for domestic gas appliances. Used for minimising risk for people with dementia still living at home. Accessed through the company's website – [www.sgn.co.uk](http://www.sgn.co.uk) go to Safety and then referral.

**Life Expectancy** Jeff provided some interesting data he had found which highlighted the different life expectancies across different areas of Midlothian. If you are male, you will live longest, to 82.4 years if you live in Penicuik North, but only to 72.4 years if in Dalkeith. If you are a woman you will live to 87.1 years if you live in Penicuik East but only 76.7 years if you live in Dalkeith !!

## **10. Next meeting Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2-4pm Venue TBC**

