NOTES OF MEETING, Tuesday 17th October, 2017

JOINT PHYSICAL DISABILITY PLANNING GROUP

1. APOLOGIES: Tom Welsh, Ann Morrison, Karl Vanter, LACs, Eric Johnstone, Marlene Gill, Rosie McLoughlin

2. ATTENDEES: Jayne Lewis, Jeff Adamson, Catriona Luff, Gillian Chapman, Sarah Taylor, Mike Harrison

3. ACTION PLAN UPDATES

Jeff updated the group on the discussions at the ForwardMid away day and some proposals for new/revised actions going forward. Requesting also that ALL group members should do the same and that proposals should be brought back to the December meeting for consideration.

- **Facebook** – recognise that social media needs to be better utilised to promote the work JPDG do and the raise the profile of the issues we are dealing with. Jayne had meeting with Wendy Flemming, our new HSCP Communications person. She put information up about JPDG with an image Jayne provided and this apparently got quite a response. Work is ongoing with the Forward Mid Facebook page to optimise its use. Sarah also advised the College make good use of social media to get their messages across and raise awareness.

- **Volunteers** – We all recognise that volunteers are playing an ever increasing role within our communities as formal support mechanisms come under greater pressure. Jeff raised issue of reward for volunteers as an incentive eg inclusion in discount schemes (My Rewards) or discounted leisure access etc Group agreed that lobbying for this would be appropriate

- **Promotion** – Use occasions like the Freshers Fair at Edinburgh College in January and have a promotion event within Fairfield – take peoples emails and encourage participation in eg keeping the information hubs up to date in Libraries. Also do this in High Schools – could engage Duke of Edinburgh Award students. Felt that having some freebies to give away such as pens etc help attract people. Need to source a small amount of money to facilitate this – suggestions?

- **Access to politicians**. Forward Mid would like to see more access to politicians – Councillors, MSPs and MPs, to raise awareness and get them working on our behalf.

- **Midlothian Disabled Assembly** – idea that an assembly like that for Older People, could be created.

Requesting also that ALL group members should review their own actions and that proposals should be brought back to the December meeting for consideration.
4. **Communications Group**

   **Forward Mid Newsletter** - Jeff advised that the next newsletter is almost ready for distribution. Request for someone to proof read newsletters. Mike agreed to do this.

   **JPDPG newsletter** - Further discussions took place around the format and content of the proposed newsletter following input from Marlene. Jeff agreed to take this discussion back to Forward Mid for a final draft. Will also provide a list of proposed dates for FM newsletters, into which the JPDG one will be placed.

5. **Disabled younger Adults.**

   Once again the issue of the lack of suitable respite accommodation for younger disabled adults highlighted. Jayne advised that the recommendations of a recent report by the Sue Ryder Foundation, have been accepted by the Scottish Govt and Nicola Sturgeon stated she will create a National Strategy for adults with Neurological conditions. Catriona will follow up with Becky Hilton on the previous proposal to attempt to measure the unmet need in Midlothian. Discussion also took place around the potential to follow the LD example of utilising a council property to provide this facility (Gore Avenue). Also potential through Trust / Viewpoint Housing to make local provision.

6. **SDS Reference Group**

   Jeff attending SDS Board next week. Will re-visit the reference group issue and request a meeting.

7. **AOCB**

   **Bereavement Support**

   Jayne asked group whether or not bereavement support has ever been an issue or raised by others as an issue. No-one had experience of this. Sarah advised that students at the college would speak to a Student Support Officer who would refer them on for specialist counselling and access to this had never been raised as problem.

8. **Next meeting** – Tuesday 12th December 2pm, Fairfield House, Conference room 1