

Would you like to help to improve health and social care services for carers in Midlothian?

The Midlothian Integrated Joint Board for Health and Social Care is looking for a volunteer to join them as a carer member. They are also looking for a deputy carer member to provide support and cover for the carer member. This is an exciting and important opportunity to help shape health and social care services, and to ensure unpaid carers are at the heart of decisions.

What is health and social care integration?

Until relatively recently health and social care services have been managed separately by each local council and local NHS Board. The integration of health and social care means that these services are now managed and developed together. More information about health and social care integration can be found at:

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/social-care/health-and-social-care-integration/>

What is the Integrated Joint Board for Health and Social Care?

The Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership is responsible for delivering all health and social care services for adults and older people. The Integrated Joint Board is the main decision-making body for the Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership.

The mission of the Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership is to work together to achieve better outcomes for Midlothian's people:

- To support people to stay healthy and well
- To make it easy to get health and social care services
- To provide excellent quality care, treatment and support

The Strategic Plan sets out what the Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership will do over a 3 year period. The Integrated Joint Board is responsible for making sure the plan is carried out. More information about the integration of health and social care in Midlothian and the Strategic Plan can be found at:

https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/1347/health_and_social_care/200/health_and_social_care_integration

The Midlothian Integrated Joint Board is made up of 8 voting members, including:

- 4 Elected Members (Councillors)
- 4 NHS representatives

Non voting members include:

- The Chief Social Work Officer
- The Chief Nurse
- The Joint Director of Health and Social Care
- A member of the public

- A carer (this role)

What is the role of the carer member and deputy carer member?

The role of the carer member is to:

- Make sure that if unpaid carers have been consulted what they have said is considered in decision-making
- Make sure that the impact of services, or changes to services, on the lives of carers is part of discussions
- Provide a link between local carer groups and the Board
- Promote more carer involvement (where this is needed)
- Check and make sure carers are involved and consulted as is required by national and local guidance

It is important to be clear that the role is not to:

- Represent carers or be “the voice” of carers
- Bring personal issues to the table (either your own or those of other individuals)

The role of the deputy carer member is to step in for the carer member, if they are unable to attend a board meeting

What is the time commitment?

The carer member would need to attend a meeting every month. The meeting would be for either the Integrated Joint Board, or for development sessions that all board members need to attend. Meetings generally last for two hours and take place on a weekday during standard working hours. In addition to participating in meetings, the carer member would also need to spend time reading documents and preparing for meetings, including attending support meetings or training as required.

The deputy carer member would need to attend development sessions every 8 weeks, and would attend Integrated Joint Board meetings if the carer member is unable to attend.

Board meetings take place in Dalkeith and have been taking place online during the Covid-19 pandemic. Development sessions take place in a range of locations.

Both roles require a longer-term commitment and can be done for up to 3 years. The Board meeting dates are set in advance, and at present are set until December 2021.

Who would make a good candidate?

A good candidate would be:

- A current or former unpaid carer (A carer is an individual who provides or intends to provide care for another individual as described in the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016).
- Able to read a range of documents before each meeting and provide feedback*
- Able to raise issues in meetings, and challenge decisions where needed
- Able to be sensitive to other people’s opinions
- Able to meet regularly with local carer organisations & understand a wide range of current carer issues
- Able to take part in Board meetings and development sessions
- Reliable and committed to carrying out the role

- Able to sign up to the role for a least 1 year, and for up to 3 years

To apply for this role you must live in Midlothian.

*To see examples of the documents (papers) that carer members would be required to read before a Board meeting please see the “Agenda Document Pack”

<https://midlothian.cmis.uk.com/live/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1178/Committee/11/Default.aspx>

What are the benefits of being an Integrated Joint Board member?

As a member of the Integrated Joint Board you will have an important role in helping to improve health and social care services for all adults in Midlothian. As a carer or deputy carer member of the board you will be giving your time, skills and experience to help ensure our work takes into account the needs of carers and helps to improve their lives. You will be able to meet a range of new people, learn about the work of the Integrated Joint Board and will also receive a range of training.

What support will I receive?

As a carer or deputy carer member of the Board, you will be supported by health and social care staff to carry out your role, and have regular support meetings. Training will be developed to meet your needs, and you will have access to training programmes provided through health and social care organisations. You will be able to attend national support meetings with other carer members from across Scotland to share learning and gain peer support.

You will receive help with costs (expenses) to enable you to attend meetings. This will include sitter, or child care costs. Other costs such as photocopying and printing will also be met.

The Integrated Joint Board is committed to making meetings accessible – they will avoid using jargon and make sure everyone feels welcome and able to contribute. Meetings take place in an accessible venue and have taken place online during the Covid-19 pandemic. We are committed to supporting people to enable them to carry out this role and we will try to meet any support needs identified by applicants.

I’m interested – what should I do?

To apply for the role of carer or deputy carer member you need to complete the application form and send to Shelagh. **The deadline is 30th October 2020.**

If you would like to speak someone about the roles you can email Mairi or Shelagh who will arrange a call to explain more about the roles and what they will involve, and to answer any questions.

Shelagh Swithenbank, Carer Planning Officer, shelagh.swithenbank@midlothian.gov.uk
Mairi Simpson, Integration Manager, Mairi.simpson@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

How will candidates be chosen?

After the deadline, successful applicants will be invited to an interview. Interviews will take place in November. The successful carer and deputy carer members will be chosen after the interviews.