

Forward

Midlothian

Disabled People

www.forwardmid.org.uk

Equality - Diversity - Inclusion



Midlothian Disabled Peoples Assembly

A meeting of Midlothian Disabled Peoples Assembly for 2023, "Supporting and resourcing a good life for disabled people and People with long-term Medical Conditions in Midlothian", took place on Tuesday October 10th at St John's and Kings Park Church Dalkeith.

This was a gathering of disabled people, carers, representatives from organisations that support disabled people, Health and Social Care professionals, local councillors, and MSP's, coming together, talking to each other, and making contacts (professional and social). All had the opportunity to become better informed about services that support disabled people and the resources across Midlothian that could help all disabled people and people with long-term conditions lead the kind of life they want to.

Thanks to all who came and participated in this hugely successful event, making it a lively, enjoyable and enlightening gathering.

Directory is available in Midlothian Libraries.

The directory is also available online and in PDF version both versions are fully accessible at the following link from the Forward Mid website.

www.forwardmid.org.uk/print

www.forwardmid.org.uk/mobile

www.naturalreaders.com/ a free AI Text To Speech For Personal Use was used to check both versions of PDF and Website versions.

**Midlothian
Directory
for
Disabled People
and People
with
Long-Term
Conditions
2024**



Around twenty guest stakeholders were present including;

- Mark Kelly – Fair Start Scotland. Triage Central Limited. Employment support.
- Sam Murphy, Madeleine Bell, Sustrans Project Officer. Active Travel Marketing Officer Midlothian Council.
- Allan Blair - Sport & Leisure Wellbeing Manager Sport & Leisure Services. Midlothian Council.
- Alan Rooney. Dalkeith and District Citizens Advice Bureau.
- Juliet Ridgway Tait Alison Dunwell – Braw Blether/ Midlothian Libraries.

- Lynne Phillips - Specsavers. Home visits.
- David Walker, Carol Sleight, VOCAL Midlothian.
- James Robertson – The Warblers.
- Elizabeth Campbell. Service Development Manager. HCL. Handicabs.
- Mike Harrison. Midlothian Access Panel.
- Angela Mitchell. Changeworks.
- Lynne Bruce. Community Safety Advocate. Dalkeith Community fire Station
- Michael Huddleston. Alzheimers Scotland.
- Karen Soar. Central Dalkeith and Woodburn Pantry.
- Beya Thomson. Social Security Scotland.
- Naomi Knights – Connect Befriending, Volunteer Midlothian.
- Una Paterson – Connect Online, Volunteer Midlothian.
- Magda Clark – Volunteer Development Officer.
- Stuart Mcintosh and Local Area co-ordination team, Enable Communities.
- Anna White. Disability Employment Advisor East Scotland.
- Alexandra Stach. Meg O’Flynn. Midlothian Well Being Team.
- Chris Macguire. Red Cross.
- Dale Robertson. DR Inclusive Fitness and Training.
- Szilvia Zarda. Support and Development Worker. Health in Mind.
- Mark Wells - Food Fact Friends.



The event was attended by approximately 150 people between 11:30hrs and 13:30hrs. Everyone present was able to collect their own copy of the new improved 2024 Directory for Disabled People and People with Long-Term conditions. The directory was in keen demand. Additional copies are now available from libraries and the Midlothian Voluntary Action office in Dalkeith.

People present on the day, commented on the energy and buzz in the hall due in no small part to the large number of conversations between people who would normally not have the opportunity to meet or speak to.

Sheree's View

Wednesday, 10th October. The day had finally arrived for the Forward Mid team. All the planning and organising was finally coming together.

Here was our 3rd MIDPA and the directory launch for 2024.

We had invited people like Jeremy Balfour and organisations like The Red Cross. We had made a plan to get stalls for each organisation and pair them with a organisation they had possibly never met before and get them talking to each other.

The buzz at the event was even better than last year!!! We were at full capacity with stalls and members of the public. All around us it was nice to take a moment and take in the view and the amazing energy.

As part of the team's speech, we shared what our vision was for this year's event. Our main goal for the day was to network and get talking to each other. Pass on details and learn about other organisations that maybe of help to their own work they do.

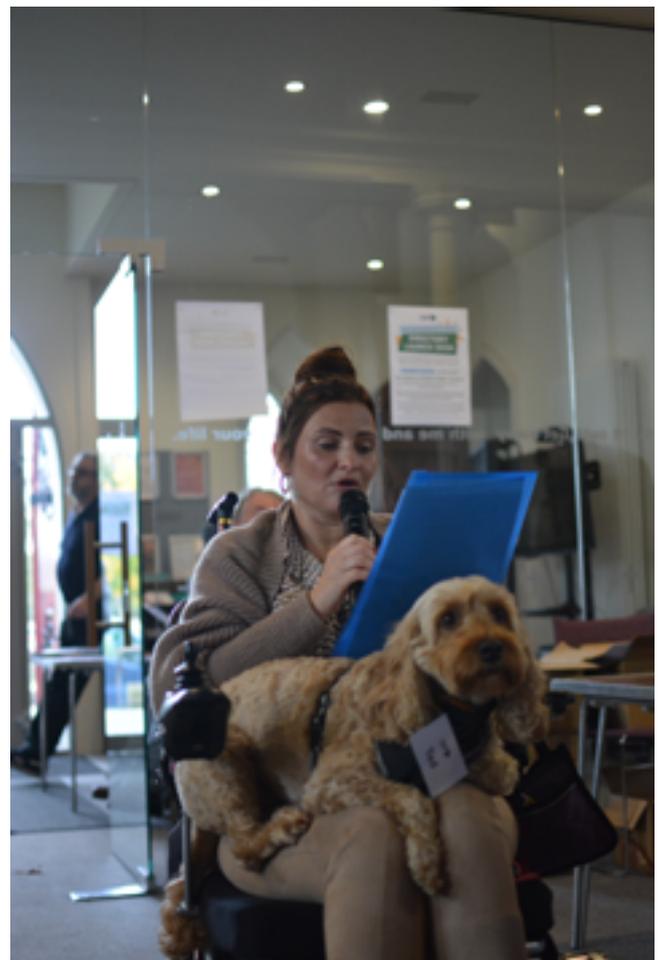
What we wanted to aim for was trying to learn there is so much information out there in our community and if we can learn to become more accessible about how its shared. This is why Forward Mid team put a lot of effort into our directory and keep it up to date. Our directory is a great tool to have. It is full of so much information. If the directory was at hand to show a person you may think it could help, who are searching to see what is out there for a disabled person. Also, you can add that we have a website, Facebook page and the directory can be downloaded digitally.

We want you to pass information on, its all there we just need you to spread the word.

The event was a great success. We received so much positive feedback about the event and how they enjoyed being part of the day. This is all Forward Mid wanted and we feel we did our part of the jigsaw, it's now your turn.

Thank you to everyone who came and Thank you to St Johns Kings Park Church and help we had from Enable Scotland and our helpers we pulled in to assist.

Who's up for 2024? _ _ _



The Midlothian Disabled Peoples Assembly 2023, with the corresponding launch of the new Directory for Disabled People and People with Long-term conditions 2024, took place on the 10th of October at Saint Johns and Kings Park Church in Dalkeith.

The event was attended by around 150 people, Gathering to engage in excellent conversations and informed exchanges with other disabled citizens in the room.

A collection of 21 local organisations providing information and advice with individual stalls within the hall.

There was no doubt that the energy, vibrancy and human warmth of the community of people that gathered at St John's and Kings Park Church felt so positive and useful for all present.

The energy of the connection, conversation and information exchange that was easily felt happening in real time was commented on by so many people.

Everyone in attendance received their copy of the new, 2024 Directory for Disabled People - THE essential document to negotiate the myriad of local services available to Disabled People living in Midlothian.



If you want to get in touch with Forward Mid we can be contacted at Eric Johnstone ☎ : 0131-663-9471 or ✉ eric.johnstone@mvacvs.org.uk and at 🌐 : www.forwardmid.org.uk/contactus.php

Heartfelt thanks to all our guest organisations and partners on the day.

Forward Mid Team.

Alternative Publications

Please like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/forwardmid/

Forward Mid newsletters are available in large print on request from Eric Johnstone ☎ : 0131-663-9471 or ✉ eric.johnstone@mvacvs.org.uk write to him at MVA, 4-6 White Hart Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1AE with your request. Electronic copies can be found on www.forwardmid.org.uk. The latest Firefox browser has the reader symbol 📖 in the address bar, click and select narrate from left menu. The latest Safari Browser has the reader symbol **Reader** but does not read aloud. These only work on websites without errors. If you require help please contact Forward Mid and we will arrange to help you.

Edited by Iain Tait for Forward Mid