



**30/1/08**

## **Lothian Joint Physical disability Strategy Response from Forward Mid**

The general strategy contains some solid recommendations and a useful framework for delivery of potential quality services for people with Physical and complex disability.

Some key areas and concerns we would wish to highlight;

It is important to establish better more accurate information about the disabled populous and to build more efficient, open communication with this community.

The strategy consultation process and consultation events themselves how much work needs to be done in engaging with disabled people themselves, This document refers to figures from the 1980's. Surely this is a stark indication of how poor our information currently is. How can we deliver a service to people when we don't know who/ where they are?

The strategy focuses on key work streams.

---

### **FORWARD MIDLOTHIAN DISABLED**

C/o MCCF, MVA, 4/6 White Hart Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1AE, Midlothian.

Phone: 0131-663-9471

E-Mail: [eric.johnstone@mvacvs.org.uk](mailto:eric.johnstone@mvacvs.org.uk)

Or Iain Tait, E-Mail [dulce@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dulce@tiscali.co.uk)



The absence of **Employment** from these work streams is a major shortcoming of this strategy. Elsewhere the strategy refers to person centred and ordinary lives. Most people are fairly well defined by their employment. It is essential that disabled people are supported to contribute positively and much work need to be done with local employers, local authorities and individuals themselves to move towards this. This is a serious and flawed omission in the strategy.

**Employment** – think it should have a higher profile

- need to join up across strategies / department / authorities

Need to make it clearer that people will need more support to go through independent living as support services have a key role in enabling Independent Living (in promoting lifestyle planning)

Funding restrictions result in the use of eligibility criteria – these are usually restricted to basic needs and quality of life is often excluded.

Advocacy is key to independent living and it does not exist at the moment for this group of people

Recognise the complexity of providing the right information at the right time - communication strategy?

Need to ensure people are helped to access the right welfare benefits.

Careers guidance / business guidance important but missed because transition from Further Education is not done. Could also be at hospital discharge time.

---

**FORWARD MIDLOTHIAN DISABLED**

C/o MCCF, MVA, 4/6 White Hart Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1AE, Midlothian.

Phone: 0131-663-9471

E-Mail: [eric.johnstone@mvacvs.org.uk](mailto:eric.johnstone@mvacvs.org.uk)

Or Iain Tait, E-Mail [dulce@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dulce@tiscali.co.uk)



No mention of genuine citizen leadership i.e. where disable people themselves are not only involved and consulted with but have key, Senior roles in leading pieces of the work and strategy implementation.

A key point is that, while giving some good indicators of what may constitute a good service the Actions and Recommendations that appear in each of the sections are vague, non- specific and without timescales.

Forward Mid would want to see clear SMART deliverable outcomes at the heart of the strategy. This is one of the greatest concerns at this time. This is a gaping omission from the current strategy document.

We would wish to see genuine outcomes focussed strategy for each local authority area which may be related to the National Outcomes work currently being developed by the Scottish Government.

These outcomes should relate to service user life outcomes as opposed to organisational figures and targets.

**Resourcing** or money is another key issue that needs a genuine focus. What monies/ resources are available to deliver this work? It feels absurd to have such lack of clarity or explicit detail in this area.

A strategy that is fully costed and resourced will work. This is essential and must happen.

### **What happens next?**

It feels unclear as to what happens next. It would be extremely useful to have some sort of map or guidelines regarding next steps or a plan until end 2008

---

#### **FORWARD MIDLOTHIAN DISABLED**

C/o MCCF, MVA, 4/6 White Hart Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1AE, Midlothian.

Phone: 0131-663-9471

E-Mail: [eric.johnstone@mvacvs.org.uk](mailto:eric.johnstone@mvacvs.org.uk)

Or Iain Tait, E-Mail [dulce@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dulce@tiscali.co.uk)



as to how this work is disseminated or translated into practice and change in services.

**Housing.** We propose all new build housing to be barrier free and fully accessible. This is a long term approach with a vision for future generation and best value in the long term. Why build poorly accessible housing in 2008 and beyond which will require rebuilt in fifty years with and ever increasing ageing population and ever developing equalities legislation?

This is not just about disable people living in accessible accommodation but that they may wish to visit friends, family and be prevented from doing so because of restricted access.

How will the strategy be implemented in day to day frontline practice? Will it directly inform local authority policy/guidance? Does this mean more funds allocated for self - directed support?

Disability definitions: – needs do not stem only from impairment- they stem also from restrictive environment e.g. inaccessible transport creates need to have a Personal Assistant to drive accessible vehicle. Also, need to discern the **rightful nature of needs of disabled people as citizens** rather than think of their needs simply in terms of health and social care, i.e. right to have choice and control in lifestyle/ participate in community / leisure-

Meaningful involvement and Control of service users requires **adequate support** e.g. independent advocacy (funding), increased uptake of Direct Payments adequate support to manage Direct Payments (sustainable support organisations)

---

**FORWARD MIDLOTHIAN DISABLED**

C/o MCCF, MVA, 4/6 White Hart Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1AE, Midlothian.

Phone: 0131-663-9471

E-Mail: [eric.johnstone@mvacvs.org.uk](mailto:eric.johnstone@mvacvs.org.uk)

Or Iain Tait, E-Mail [dulce@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dulce@tiscali.co.uk)



Values/ Vision: p. 16 Information: needs to include wide dissemination/ publicity/ discussion of options of self-directed care at assessment (e.g. DP).

Active listening (p.41) - Should include meaningful ongoing involvement of disabled people in planning of services locally as well as individual involvement in person-centred care plans. – There should be mention of strategy to fund and sustain advocacy and support mechanisms, peer and non-peer.

Budget 05/06- Lack of funding of Direct Payments from health? Lack of funding for Advocacy.

Themes which are applicable to all streams should include: independent living: **the right to choice and control**: adequate, flexible, person centred, self-directed support.

**Independent Living**- Detailed Action- no mention of Direct Payments! There seems to be a lot of reference to “In Control”, but it is important to learn first from implementation of Direct Payments so far and improve existing practice on Direct Payments.

Recommendations: Increase uptake of Direct Payments (allocated resources for development, publicity/awareness, training of Social Workers, independent advocacy from pre- assessment stage/ sustainable support to individual.

---

**FORWARD MIDLOTHIAN DISABLED**

C/o MCF, MVA, 4/6 White Hart Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1AE, Midlothian.

Phone: 0131-663-9471

E-Mail: [eric.johnstone@mvacvs.org.uk](mailto:eric.johnstone@mvacvs.org.uk)

Or Iain Tait, E-Mail [dulce@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dulce@tiscali.co.uk)



Our experience is that many social workers are not aware what Direct Payments are. Very few health professionals (Occupational Therapists, district nurses ...) have an understanding of self directed support.

One action point may be taken from the Self – Direct Support Guidelines 2007 – Local Authorities will devise a training strategy that addresses the individual needs of service users, their care managers, Personal Assistants and health partners. This may involve joint training of key participants led by local support organisations.

Local user led organisations should be involved at the earliest stage of an individual seeking any care service.

Again from the Self Directed Support Guidelines, “The local authority should inform users of local support services, where available, to support individuals exploring self directed support and preparing for their assessment.

Ideally the individual would also have the opportunity to speak to someone using self - directed support prior to making any decisions.

The role of **Flexible Care/ Self-directed support** needs to be more prominent in considering transport/leisure/access to services and be part of recommendations in all these work streams:

**Transport-** Development required: include Personal Assistance as facilitating factor- need to be funded as part of HSC.

Transport is a crucial issue with regard to the quality of people’s lives. Need to involve transport providers as part of the development.

Why do local authorities seem powerless in this relationship?

---

**FORWARD MIDLOTHIAN DISABLED**

C/o MCCF, MVA, 4/6 White Hart Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1AE, Midlothian.

Phone: 0131-663-9471

E-Mail: [eric.johnstone@mvacvs.org.uk](mailto:eric.johnstone@mvacvs.org.uk)

Or Iain Tait, E-Mail [dulce@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dulce@tiscali.co.uk)



Similarly, funding should be considered for **social networks/ leisure opportunities**. - Need to reconsider eligibility criteria.

### **Joint Working**

Joint working between health and social work is crucial for the successful delivery of any strategy.

There need to be explicit action steps regarding the development of improved Joint Working.

This must be mentioned in any action plan and may include practical training session for staff on what excellent Joint working consists of in practice.

Looking forward to your response.

Eric Johnstone on behalf of Forward Mid.

---

#### **FORWARD MIDLOTHIAN DISABLED**

C/o MCCF, MVA, 4/6 White Hart Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1AE, Midlothian.

Phone: 0131-663-9471

E-Mail: [eric.johnstone@mvacvs.org.uk](mailto:eric.johnstone@mvacvs.org.uk)

Or Iain Tait, E-Mail [dulce@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dulce@tiscali.co.uk)

Forward  
Midlothian  
Disabled



---

**FORWARD MIDLOTHIAN DISABLED**

C/o MCCF, MVA, 4/6 White Hart Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1AE, Midlothian.

Phone: 0131-663-9471

E-Mail: [eric.johnstone@mvacvs.org.uk](mailto:eric.johnstone@mvacvs.org.uk)

Or Iain Tait, E-Mail [dulce@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dulce@tiscali.co.uk)