**Councillor Janet Lay-Douglas 10/11/2021**

Apologies for not attending PHCC this evening I have Chairs of Parent Councils meeting this evening with Cross party Ed working group topic –Education Reform Discussion.

Information sent to Fiona Warner for PHCC on road closures for Bonnyrigg ie Christmas lights, left off email list. Important for Polton hall to have foresight of plans for the town centre.

**Winter Service plan** 20/21 remains on the Midlothian Website and hasn’t as yet been replaced with the 21/22 version. The 20/21 plan was published at the beginning of October last year so I have raised a request with Derek Oliver to inform when the 21/22 version will be launched online. The Midlothian website Grit Bin plan is not accurate and is to be updated. I have requested the full winter service plan to be launched online as soon as possible.

**Meetings** attended Performance Review, General Purposes, Planning, Cross Party Working Group for Large Grants panel. Resilience seminar by Council & Mental Health webinar. Continue to address Constituent concerns. **Remembrance** I will attend Polton hall remembrance service on Sunday along with Lasswade & Bonnyrigg.

**Health update as of last week**

Pressure on NHS with Winter looming. Respiratory viruses in children at the moment more than Adults. Significant pressures in Health & Social care with impact of Covid and exacerbated conditions that were untreated during Covid, therefore clearly more anxious than usual about this winter.

Hugely complex delivery programme of Flu & Covid Booster. Comments from some constituents NOT receiving both jabs just Flu vaccine.

The Flu vaccine came to Midlothian before the Covid Booster vaccine. Guidance from SG was to prioritise flu vaccine so Midlothian rolled out the Flu Vaccine over a 2 week period, now I understand those eligible will receive both jabs.

**Vaccination programme**

**Flu jab** 80% over 70’s, 88% Housebound, 77% clinically Vunerable

**Covid Boosters** 35% of Cohorts. Midlothian Health confident of delivery.

**A personal wee note of congratulations on the ‘whole’ Council approach to Covid. The departments have and continue to work incredibly hard across Health /Place / Education Children services and Communities Teams supporting each other to get Midlothian through this Pandemic and other challenges.**

Good news Midlothian Community Hospital have an additional 14 beds have capacity for 20 but can’t get the additional 5 Nurses, recruitment is a National problem. Funding received for additional 4 beds on the Mental Health ward which is further good news. Looking to maximise bed usage over the winter.

**Update from weekly Education Cross Party working Group**

* News item. Children involved in minibus accident in Gorebridge yesterday all well and at home. Driver and member of staff shaken but okay. Driver of the other vehicle has admitted responsibility.
* Head Teachers are still under significant pressure. Re-opening of school dining halls to be a phased approach due to capacity issues in some schools. In terms of primary schools – staffing concerns, i.e. head teachers having to teach due to high absences.
* Council Ed Appointed over 70 staff since June to accommodate challenges
* Burnbrae – to be inspected again soon so rather Important Inspection, given previous evaluations.
* Mindful of workload and current pressures and looking after wellbeing of Head Teachers and staff. Positive – numbers decreasing in terms of COVID cases, just contact tracing an issue
* Midlothian welcomes 2 Afghan families who will receive full support from Midlothian Authority.

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