

Midlothian Federation of Community Councils

19 October 2022

ZOOM meeting Minutes

Present:

Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith (Treasurer)
Andrew Watt (AW)	Dalkeith
Brian Farrell (BF)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Robin Barclay (RB)	Eskbank
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield & Easthouses
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield & Easthouses (Chair)
Douglas West (DW)	Bonnyrigg and District
Joanne Gilles (JG)	Damhead
Mirabelle Maslin (MM)	Roslin and Bilston
Jim Hiddleston (JH)	Roslin and Bilston
Edith Cameron (EC)	Rosewell
Daya Feldwick (DF)	Loanhead
Paul McGrath (PMcG)	Moorfoot
Myrtle Pont (MP)	Tynewater

In Attendance

Paul Johnson (PJ)	Midlothian Council - Communities & Lifelong Learning
Rebecca Green (RG)	Midlothian HSCP and local independent GP's
Hazel Garven (HG)	Lead Pharmacist for Primary Care, Edinburgh
Eleanor Fairbairn (EF)	Pharmacist at Lloyds, on behalf of independent contractor local Pharmacies
Mark McCutcheon (MM)	Dental advisor for Lothian, on behalf of local independent contractor dentists

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Robert welcomed Community Councillors and the invited guests to the meeting.

Dr Rebecca Green described the role of the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) and provision of Health and Social care provision. The brings together parts of Midlothian Council and NHS Lothian to help residents to live well and get support when they need it - from care homes to care at home, primary care to telecare, voluntary organisations to vaccinations.

GP Practices

- i** Are independent contractors that provide health services to local communities. Individual practices make their own decisions as to how they run the practices and provide services.
- ii** In Midlothian, the increase in population numbers is having an impact upon service provision. It is anticipated that there will be a 41% increase in the number of people aged over 75. People are living longer and more people have multiple, long-term conditions, so the amount of care needed, and its complexity, has been increasing.
- Q.** Do GP practices has sight of planning applications? Do they have an input or have influence over Housing plans?
- A.** There is new provision in the Shawfair and Bonnyrigg area. Facilities in Newtongrange are being developed.

- Q.** Does the HSCP have any 'clout?'
- A.** The HSCP partners are responsible for service delivery of Adult and Social Care including care services, running Community Hospitals, providing day care services and social work services.

- Q.** How are GP practices paid for their service provision>
- A.** Practices receive a registered payment and the cost of providing extra services

- iii** BF (ENCC) observed that the GP practice lists have been closed. Furthermore, he suggested that the HSCP and NHS Lothian need to take action to address and fix this problem.
- iv** RG highlighted that discussions are taking place to address this but those involved are only able to work with the resources that they currently have access to at the moment. Funding to develop services has been withdrawn.
- v** Currently there is a shortage of GPs able to staff surgeries. Colleagues are already working up to the limit of maximum safety levels. Although patients with the greatest medical needs are a priority and receive treatment where required, there is a recognition that there is still a demand that remains unfulfilled.
- vi** The HSCP is looking at taking measures to enable people to have increased access to medical treatment when they require it. This may however may not be provided by the GP but rather treatment would be provided by other

clinicians (specialists). Appointments could be reserved to support patients with more complex cases.

There will be provision of email services that would provide direct access to provision rather than through GP referral.

Support for HSCP by MFCC

- i** Will try to improve efficiency
- ii** Integrated Joint Board Plan 2022-2025 is being developed and RG will provide email address to share comments to HSCP
- iii** HSCP did do a survey of 45,000 residents. Eighty people contributed to the consultation.
 - i** Health and Care experience survey is conducted every 2 years.
 - ii** Support from MFCC to encourage local residents to participate in these surveys would be helpful.
 - iii** During Covid, National guidance was that telephone appointments were to be used.
 - iv** Infection control measures have been relaxed and more face-face appointments should be available. For example in Pathhead 70% of appointments are now face to face

Dentists

- i** Dentists set up their own companies and make their own investments in properties and service provision. Investment can come from both individuals and companies.
- ii** Dentists are paid for the services provided, e.g filling, extraction etc. They receive a payment for all people on their list who are under 18.
- iii** They hold contracts with NHS Lothian.
- iv** Currently there is a shortage of registered dentists and some support personnel. Brexit and the Covid pandemic have had a negative impact on the supply of staff.
- v** Dentists trained in Scotland may choose to work in other parts of the UK or move abroad.
- vi** If a gap in provision is identified depending on the size of the population, new practices will open.

Community Pharmacies

- i** Played a significant role in providing community support during the Pandemic, frequently providing support and taking up demand from other services.

- ii Brexit has adversely affected staffing levels because of restricted movement of available and trained pharmacists and there is now a shortage of staff available to provide pharmaceutical services.
- iii Post Covid, the numbers of available pharmacists has not increased. Seeking an improved work / life balance, some Pharmacists have chosen to work in areas other than community-based pharmacies.
- iv Legislation governs the opening of new pharmacies including the requirement to have an employed, qualified pharmacist to be present in the location.
- v Recently there has been a reduction in the number of 'Employed Pharmacists' and an increase in the number of locum pharmacists.
- vi High Staff turnover can have an adverse impact upon the delivery and provision of services although local services are improving.
- vii Additionally supplies of some drugs are in short supply.
- viii Some GP's can facilitate online ordering of drugs, however electronic prescriptions are not available in Scotland. Legislation would be required to make the change to the change from paper to electronic prescriptions and currently, this is being considered.
- ix Information Technology improvements that would support service delivery are in the process of being implemented

Serial Prescriptions

- i Pharmacies will provide medication for as long as noted on the prescription. Offsite medication has to go to the pharmacy before being delivered to the patient.
- ii Manufacturers cannot provide some products because they do not have stock.
- iii Work force shortages also have an impact on the possibility of new pharmacies being opened.
- iv Loss of staff also means that there is a loss of knowledge and expertise.
- v NHS Lothian does look at gaps in service provision on an Annual basis.
- vi The ratio in Midlothian of one pharmacy to 5000 patients is very similar to ratios in other areas in Midlothian.
- vii Applications for the establishment of new pharmacies take approximately a year to process.
- viii Local residents can be involved in the process.
- ix Information can be accessed on the NHS Lothian Website

- x 12% of drugs are currently out of stock, due to restrictions after Brexit and the value of the pound.
- xi A Pharmacy is open 7 days a week at Straiton Retail Park
- xii Looking at resources that would support an increase the numbers in the workforce, (e.g. University graduates swapping courses to accelerate qualification.
- xiii Payments could be made for enhanced service provision.
- xiv Aim is to be able to have a regular service with local pharmacies
- xv Need to think about patient safety to provide a safe, informed service
- xvi Face to Face contact and counselling are important in order to provide safe delivery of service provision

Q. Could IJB information be shared with Community Councils?

A. Yes there could be a quarterly update provided

Flu Vaccines

- i Members of High Risk groups will prioritised in terms of provision of Covid19 boosters and flu vaccines and should, by this point have been offered an appointment. There are four Vaccine facilities in Midlothian.
- ii A visiting service to provide vaccinations is available
- iii Heath Care providers are trying to improve vaccine uptake through promotion and support.

MFCC support

- i Willing to circulate information via MFCC and local Community Councils.
- ii Links with local GP practices could be established
- iii HSCP could improve the type and amount of information

Access to patient information

- i RG highlighted that patients should be able to access their own records. They can contact the practice manager to request access. Now that records are digitised, this process should be easier than when manual records were the main source of retention.
- ii All of those present were in agreement that input from the invited speakers had been very informative, highlighting some of the constraints that Midlothian based health services providers were working within. MFCC members thanked

the speakers for the depth of information and the willingness to address the challenging questions that had been posed.

- iii MFCC members highlighted that they would like to develop and improve their support to the Health and Social Care Partnership where possible. They noted that improved communication between the HSCP and MFCC would support this and that both MFCC and local Community Council members would be willing to facilitate improved the engagement with local communities.

3. COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Bonnyrigg and District

- i Inaugural meeting of the new Community Council was held
- ii Constitution and Standing Orders adopted
- iii Office Bearers elected

Damhead and District

- i. Concerns across the community about the potential impact of the new junction and traffic lights planned as part of the Snowsports Centre 'Destination Hillend' developments on road safety at the Hillend triple junction. Ongoing efforts underway to engage Montagu-Evans on this matter.

- ii. Ongoing concern about the proposed A701 relief road and lack of compelling rationale for this road and the detrimental impact this will have on green fields at a time when we are in the midst of a climate emergency.

- iii. DDCC is also working with SKS on the development of a rural community climate action plan, supported by funding from MVA. Initial survey to the community is now live with further engagement (including face to face) planned.

Moorfoot

- i Election of Office Bearers
- ii Requests for assistance with Road Safety issues
- iii Crossing near North Middleton Village Hall to support the new Pump Track
- iv Refresh of 20 zone marking in North Middleton
- v Walk around of Carrington road safety issues requested
- vi Small Grants of £350 to be paid to each village hall (North Middleton, Carrington and Temple) for improvements.

Rosewell

- i Tennis club fully operational. People can become members, play as much as they want or people can simply pay, and play.
- ii Lasswade and Rosewell church are opening a 'warm space' on Wednesday 10am-12pm in Rosewell Parish Hall.

Tynewater

- i** Our planned Community Day on 1st October went ahead successfully with approximately 80 people attending. The presence of Daniel Baigrie (CLLE) along with one of his youth workers was very helpful.
- ii** We had three objectives:
 - 1. Showcase all Societies/Groups operating across Tynewater
 - 2. Enable those Societies/Groups to network with each other
 - 3. Gather opinion as to which issues and topics matter most to residents
- iii** From our feedback boards the standout issues identified were:
 - 1. A strong desire for an improved bus service
 - 2. Recognition of the poor provision for the needs of young people in the area
- iv** We were not satisfied with the numbers of residents who attended despite what we thought was a reasonable advertising campaign.
Any feedback from other Community Councils detailing which methods of advertising they have found to be most effective would be appreciated.
- v** We continue to be unhappy with the level of Community Policing in Tynewater.

4. A.O.C.B.

Agreement that other items on the meeting agenda would be discussed at November meeting.

A.G.M - Change of month

Those present agreed that rather than November (as per the MFCC Constitution), the 2022 AGM would be held at the December meeting. The December meeting will be brought forward to be held on 14 December.

ASK suggested that meeting be held face-face in Dalkeith if possible. PJ will investigate to see whether a Conference Room in Fairfield House would be available.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING, 16 November, 7 - 9PM (ZOOM)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88605801115?pwd=QVRQQTIyRjlhWW9BK1NOb3JTN0ZoQT09>

Meeting ID: 886 0580 1115

Passcode: 026287