

Midlothian Financial Inclusion Network

Midlothian Financial Inclusion Network Minutes of Meeting Tuesday 10th October 2017, 9.30am, MVA Offices.

Present:

Susan Bowes	Manager Dalkeith CAB (Secretary)
Jim Boyle	Bridges Project
Lorraine Chapman	Midlothian Council - Children & Families
Catherine Davidson	DWP
Graeme Egan	MFIN
Nichola Hill	VOCAL
Sharon Hill	Mayfield & Easthouses Development Trust
Caroline Keir	Castle Rock Edinvar
Lesley Kelly	MVA (Treasurer)
Marina Miller	Midlothian Council – LLE
Sue Peart	Penicuik CAB (Chair)
Kyna Reeves	CAPS Advocacy
Heather Ritchie	Newbattle Learning Community - Education

Apologies:

Ali Boyle	Castle Rock Edinvar
Janice Burns	Midlothian Foodbank (Trustee)
Andrew Collinge	Melville Housing
Ann Coveney	St. John's And King's Park Church
Rona Duncan	Police Scotland
Fi Grimmond	Salvation Army
Diane Janczyk	Midlothian Council Early Years/Button Box
Jacquie Mather	Melville Housing
Helen Smart	NHS Lothian Health Promotion Service

	<i>Item</i>	<i>Action</i>
1	Apologies: As noted above.	
2	Minutes / Matters Arising: Lesley apologised for not circulating the minutes from the previous meeting. There were no actions arising from the minutes.	
3	Grants Review & Tendering Opportunities: LK introduced the Midlothian Council grants review and gave a brief outline of the changes affecting third sector organisations, the main changes highlighted were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer of the welfare rights function to the third sector. • Does the £600,000 reduction include CAB funding? • After school clubs going 'in-house'. • Transfer of council buildings to community groups. • Will the CABx be funded or a commissioned service. There then followed round table discussion about the proposed changes	

<p>where people were able to express their views.</p> <p>SH commented that short term savings will lead to longer term cost increases, increased hardship, increased unemployment etc.</p> <p>LC commented that there will be council departments such as her own that will also be adversely affected by the proposed cuts. The local community needs to have a presence at any meetings discussing the proposed cuts and should feedback directly to the council as councillors are more inclined to respond to the needs of local residents rather than those of organisations. The biggest issue of was the lack of consultation before the proposed cuts were announced.</p> <p>HR commented that the change to community led services is a good thing, but that the local community needs to get on board.</p> <p>SH observed that third sector organisation already do lots of things in addition to their normal activities, often for the council and with no council funding. Third sector organisations are not equal partners and are often viewed/treated as a delivery vehicle for council services.</p> <p>LK (for MVA) is sending out lots of information on the proposals and coordinating responses etc.</p>	
<p>Tendering Opportunities:</p> <p>LK talked about an upcoming SEAM ‘Meet The Buyer’ event on 24th October which includes Midlothian council, DWP and NHS Lothian tender opportunities.</p> <p>MM detailed the specifics of the Midlothian Council funding, which is 60% local and 40% Scottish government.</p> <p>CD went over the DWP dynamic purchasing system (DPS). There has been low take up so far with the DWP being unable to find matches for posted needs. Several people commented that to post a service offer on the DPS can take in the region of 60 hours and many small organisations just don’t have the time to do this. CD said that raising a business case on the DWP side of the process is also lengthy.</p> <p>Other comments from around the table included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many clients distrust DWP funded services. • The 20% payment at the start and 80% payment at the end of a contract does not work for smaller organisations. • Bids have to match the business case exactly or the bid will fail, CD does not get told why bids have failed. <p>It was noted that when going for NHS funding that the tendering process is key.</p> <p>It was observed that there are currently no organisations dealing with health/obesity in Midlothian.</p>	

	<p>There will be a representative from Partnership 4 procurement at the ‘Meet The Buyer’ event; this may be a useful resource for future funding bids.</p>	
4	<p>Review of Mayfield Financial Inclusion Event:</p> <p>HR provided feedback on the ‘Making Your Money Go Further’ event held in Mayfield on 13th September.</p> <p>The event was widely publicised on social media and covered in the local press.</p> <p>Around thirty members of the public attended the event; it was possible that a combination of bad weather and not wanting to be seen at an event connected with poverty kept people away. Two people are now receiving help as a result of attending the event.</p> <p>The event was seen as a great networking opportunity by the organisations present.</p> <p>Local schools were involved in the event which was a very positive thing.</p> <p>It may be beneficial to have future events as an add-on to other higher profile more popular local community events, and possibly as a semi-regular event in local schools etc.</p> <p>Heather noted that there is great demand for the services that her team provide and there is funding for this but no one currently in place.</p>	
5	<p>MFIN Project work update:</p> <p>GE has joined MFIN as a development worker to replace Penny. He will manage the day to day admin of MFIN, update social media etc. and is continuing to work on the digital mapping guide that Jonny started.</p>	
6	<p>Information Exchange including Universal Credit:</p> <p>SP – What is financial inclusion? and are there any local organisations who don’t know about MFIN.</p> <p>The feedback provided by East Lothian CAB on their experience of Universal Credit was widely read and appreciated. GE to send a copy to CK.</p> <p>LC - There is an event planned for November, more details to follow.</p> <p>CD – Gave an overview of the Employability and Learning Midlothian (ELM) conference taking place on 26th October. There are 82 registered attendees so far.</p> <p>The free bus ticket funding stream has now stopped.</p> <p>Scotrail are offering free train tickets for jobseekers going to job interviews.</p> <p>The new B+M at Straiton are struggling to fill all their job vacancies.</p>	

7	<p>Any other business:</p> <p>MM handed out a 'Midlothian Moving Forward' questionnaire on Learning and Development Opportunities in Your Community to those present.</p>	
8	<p>Dates of AGM and next meeting/s</p> <p>The next MFIN meeting and the AGM will be on Tuesday 28th November.</p> <p>The next MFIN meeting after that will provisionally be on Tuesday 16th January.</p>	