

Forward

Midlothian

Disabled People

www.forwardmid.org.uk



Equality - Diversity - Inclusion

Forward Mid Development Day

Forward Mid gathered for their annual Development Day as a team on the 26th of June 2025 at the Restoration Yard just outside Dalkeith.



The day consisted of space for the team to reflect on what was going positively with respect to work and also what were the challenges or areas of difficulty.

The main part of the day was about the team really focusing on clear actions and outcomes for the coming year. An opportunity to give our work some real focus and detail, with clarity around essential outcomes, working to improve the lives of disabled people in Midlothian. Forward Mid is already engaging with Lothian Buses, Colleges, Vocal and Midlothian Council. Forward Mid is hoping to engage with young disabled people to find their wishes and ideas of what they would like to see in Midlothian in the future.

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The energy of the day was very positive and such a good experience to be together as a team away from the everyday aspects of what we do in a different context. Overall, a good space for reflection and creative, purposeful action planning.

We look forward to delivering on our action plan over the coming year into 2026, which can be found on the Forward Mid website.

If you are interested or want to get involved, you can contact Forward Mid via our website or Email ✉: **Eric.johnstone@MCA.scot**.



Midlothian Climate Action Network

A few weeks ago, the Forward Mid team along with a few other groups with similar concerns had a meeting with Cory, who is part of MCAN regarding how our and everyone else's disabled community would be affected with the ever-ongoing climate change.

This meeting was initially for us to have a starting point for discussion around impending questions and fears along with learning for us to spread the word and information.

Forward Mid outlined how climate change Disability and climate change can affect disabled people with issues around –
Public transport, lack of indoor heating and lack of community support in extreme weather. This is just a few examples.

We split into pairs to discuss some important questions and topics. This was achieved by giving a positive or negative answers.
We chatted about questions we thought that would be the most important to our disabled community. There is a lot more work to be done and it is a challenge, but we will keep you updated.

The subjects covered:-



- What are the positives and negatives of community spaces?
- What would make community spaces more accessible?
- Other ways to deal with extreme weathers?
- What can Midlothian Climate Action do to help?

Forward Mid would like to hear from you. Or anyone you know who might be affected If you have any worries, questions or feedback regarding these questions.

Please get in touch. This subject will be a forever evolving task.
Please get in touch via our website 🌐 www.forwadmod.org.uk or 📘 **Facebook**.

For more information about Midlothian Climate Action Network and what they are doing
🌐 : www.midlothianclimateaction.org.uk/
📘 : www.facebook.com/MidlothianCAN
📷 : www.instagram.com/midlothiancan/

Vector24

Established in 2016, Vector24 is a Scottish charity who provides free holistic transport support and intelligent signposting to all members of the Armed Forces Community, Merchant Navy and Seafarers, including family members and dependent adults and children across the whole of Scotland.



What we provide...

At Vector24, we provide more than transport – we offer tailored, compassionate support to ensure no veteran, serving personnel, or their family faces the barriers that life can throw in their way.

Every journey we undertake is bespoke, designed around the unique needs of each individual we support. Whether it's helping someone attend a critical hospital appointment, reach a mental health session, or simply reconnect with loved ones to combat loneliness, we make it personal. We listen, we care, and we act.

Who is eligible?

We provide support to serving members of the armed forces community, veterans, merchant navy personnel, seafarers, and their families, including dependent adults and children. Our services are designed for those who are unable to use public transport or where statutory services are unavailable or unsuitable.

Public Facing Service Description


We provide non clinical transport support to individuals attending medical or wellbeing appointments. Our drivers do not provide medical treatment or clinical supervision. Our vehicles are standard road cars and are not adapted or equipped for patient transfer. This is not a regulated patient transport service.

🌐 <https://vector24.co.uk/>

It's all over

In 2025, Edinburgh International Festival has been supporting more disabled audiences than ever before. We issued 5000 tickets to people using the 50% off D/deaf, disabled or neurodivergent concession, and over 2260 free tickets for Essential Companions. Our free Access Pass initiative has grown by 822 new members, with a total membership of over 2000 people. The number of users of our accessible performances (audio described, BSL interpreted, captioned, relaxed) and The Hub Shuttle has increased from previous years. We look forward to welcoming even more disabled to the Festival in 2026.



If you want be in the know for 2026 you can sign up to the newsletter  : www.eif.co.uk/sign-up

Partnership working

Partnership working with Midlothian Local Area Coordination (Enable Scotland) and Royal National Institute for Deaf (RNID)

In Midlothian our Local Area Coordination team work in partnership with a variety of different organisations. By doing this we can continue to build our knowledge of local networks, community links, agencies and services which enables us to connect individuals in their local communities and highlight the services that will be useful to them.



One of our great partnership working has been with Caitlin Riddell from (RNID). We met with Caitlin to discuss possible ways that we could work with her to offer a drop-in service for people with hearing loss.

Caitlin already had some of the drop-in services within in Midlothian and this was proving to be successful. As people could come along and get information on hearing loss and tinnitus, have basic repairs done to their hearing aids, and to look at how to access support and services within their own area, if someone thought they were having difficulty with their hearing then Caitlin could also do a mini hearing test on site for you.

As Local Area Coordinators we run two café drop ins and thought these would be ideal to link Caitlin in with. We run the Café Connect (Dalkeith Art Centre) on the first Thursday of the month and Linking Loanhead (Library) every two weeks on a Wednesday.

So, every two months Caitlin arranges the dates with us to provide the service. This has been successful, people that come along to see Caitlin will be seen by us also and offered a hot drink and the chance to sit and have a chat with others, this has been good as it gives people attending the opportunity to meet others and have a chat as for some people they may not see many other people.

If you would like to know more about the RNID drop ins then please get in touch with the Local Area Coordination office ☎ : 0131 454 1785.



Drop In

Free of Charge



CAFÉ CONNECT

Dalkeith Arts Centre

- **Thursday 07/08/25 - 2.00 to 3.30pm**
- **Thursday 04/09/25 - 2.00 to 3.30pm**
- **Thursday 02/10/25 - 2.00 to 3.30pm**

Linking Loanhead

Loanhead Library

- **Wednesday 8th & 22nd October 2025 2.00 to 4.00 pm**
- **Wednesday 5th & 19th November 2025 2.00 to 4.00 pm**
- **Wednesday 3rd & 17th December 2025 2.00 to 4.00 pm**

All Welcome
- Inclusive for everyone.

We focus on what can do not what they can't do.
Plan together.

Meet or make friends and share a blether, take part in a quiz or board games.
Find out what's available with LAC.

Link in with Local Area Co-ordination, Enable Communities, Based on a vision of a society where disabled people are valued as full and equal members of the community



Midlothian Local Area Coordination (ENABLE Scotland)

Hello, my name is Stuart, and I am the Service Lead for the Local Area Co-ordination in Midlothian (LAC). In our team we also have Caroline and Maria. We work with people from birth to 64 years of age with all disabilities.

Our LAC Service is based on a vision of a society where disabled people and their carers are valued as full and equal members of the community. A large part of our work is to work alongside people to enable them to become more independent, increase their confidence and to achieve their dreams and build good lives.

As an LAC our role can be very diverse depending on the individual we are working with. We work in partnership with other organisations and signpost people to the appropriate service/provider in order for them to achieve their goal. This could be for volunteering or getting into paid work for example.

We work in partnership with Forward Mid and deliver the Café Connect once a month, this is on the first Thursday of the month from 14:00 hrs. to 15:30 hrs. This is a place to come along and have a cuppa and a chat, great way to engage with your local community by information sharing and gaining knowledge.

We also do other group activities throughout the month, and these are open to everyone to attend. A great way to get out socially with your friends and to meet new friends also.

If you would like to get involved with Local Area Coordination, please phone our office on ☎ 0131 454 1785 or email myself at ✉ : stuart.mcintosh@enable.org.uk



Join us online for our Midlothian peer support group focused on Self-Directed Support!

Learn more about your Self-directed Support options and connect with others through shared experiences.



CONTACT US

PSL@lothiancil.org.uk

VOCAL's Midlothian Carer Community Fund gives grants to community organisations supporting carers in their local area.

The Midlothian Carer Community Fund is led by VOCAL, and funded by Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership,



Loanhead Community Garden: Art and nature wellness workshops

Art and nature wellness workshops offering respite for unpaid carers

Venue: meet at Loanhead Leisure Centre and Library, and walk over to the garden (The Link, 5 Mayburn Walk, Loanhead EH20 9HG)

Date and time: First and third Tuesday of each month, from 11am to 1pm

The Beacon, Gorebridge: Breather cafe

Take a break, connect, and recharge at the Breather Care for unpaid carers

Venue: The Gorebridge Beacon, Hunterfield Road, Gorebridge, EH23 4TT

Date and time: Saturdays from 12:30pm to 2pm.

Glencorse Centre, Penicuik: Health Walk

Weekly health walk for carers

Venue: meet at the Glencorse Centre, 4 Firth Road, Penicuik EH26 0QZ

Date and time: Tuesdays from 10:30am to 12pm

Woodburn Community Hub, Dalkeith: Art for Life

Run by your local art group, Dalkeith Arts, this informal supportive class is all about giving you a bit of time and support for yourself. Beginner artists are welcome!

Venue: Woodburn Community Hub, 10 Woodburn Road, Dalkeith

Date and time: Tuesdays from 2:15pm to 3:30pm, starting on 16 September

To find more information about these services and what else is happening in Midlothian visit

 supportfinder.vocal.org.uk/



VOCAL Midlothian Carer Centre,
30/1 Hardengreen Estate,
Dalhousie Rd,
Dalkeith EH22 3NX.

☎ : 0131 663 6869

✉ : midlothian@vocal.org.uk

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@MCA.scot write to him at MCA, 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  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