

East Lothian Health and Social Care Manifesto 2017

This Manifesto has been developed to address some of the real concerns of East Lothian residents who rely on Health and Social Care services locally. Some of the items ask for a commitment of resources where this is urgently needed to improve services but others are about changing the ways services work with people. The Manifesto has been drafted by a group of voluntary sector organisations working with a large number and wide range of people who rely on health and social care service and we call on ALL CANDIDATES for election to East Lothian Council in 2017 to commit to the following Manifesto so that we can see a better, fairer and more cost effective range of services for local people:

1. Tackle the crisis in social care locally by:
 - a. Investing more resources; and
 - b. Putting an emphasis on high quality, consistent and flexible care at home services rather than just more of them.

If we do both we will tackle the recruitment and retention challenges by not only paying competitive wages BUT ALSO by making Home Care Workers' role much more rewarding and allowing them to develop positive relationships with service users rather than just carrying out more tasks on more people.
2. Commit to not increasing income generated through charges for non-residential social care above inflation and support the campaign to replace these "care taxes" with a fairer way of funding services for vulnerable people as a longer term goal.
3. Ensure that clear structures are in place to allow people who depend on health and social care services to have a much greater involvement in setting the priorities for those services and informing how they should be delivered AND monitor how these structures are working through regular reporting.
4. Ensure the expansion of BOTH:
 - a. Affordable public transport links to the new Community Hospital in Haddington (and through to Edinburgh via the communities in the west of the county); AND
 - b. Flexible community transport services which can meet the needs of people for whom public transport is not manageable.
5. Ensure that as an employer East Lothian Council gains Carer Positive "Engaged" status (<http://www.carerpositive.org/>) and commit to expanding this by 2022 by encouraging and enabling other local employers to do the same.
6. Recognise and address the long delays in assessments for social care AND commit to regularly publishing details of these waiting times so that improvements can be tracked.

7. Ensure that there is better respite provision for carers as a form of preventative support including expanding relatively small scale and flexible packages of care which can let carers get a break on a regular basis.
8. Commit to developing a range of flexible supports and activities over weekends - people don't just need support Monday to Friday.
9. Expand the number and range of housing options for people who need support including:
 - a. More sheltered housing for older people enabling them to remain in their own communities while; AND
 - b. Core and cluster housing to promote independence while also providing appropriate support and tackling social isolation amongst younger people who have disabilities

Adopted by:

Carers of East Lothian
East Lothian Community Care Forum
Alzhiemers Scotland East and Mid Lothian

