

Further information

If you wish further information on the Forum, please contact:

Margaret Nisbet, Information Officer, Midlothian Voluntary Action, tel: 0131 663 9471, e-mail: margaret.nisbet@mvacvs.org.uk

Other MVA leaflets

MVA have published a number of other leaflets, see <http://www.mvacvs.org/index.php/about-mva/mva-leaflets> or contact MVA.



Midlothian Voluntary Action

4-6 White Hart
Street
DALKEITH

tel: 0131 663 9471
E-mail: info@mvacvs.org.uk
Website: www.mvacvs.org.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MidlothianVoluntaryAction>

Twitter: [@MVACommunity](https://twitter.com/MVACommunity)

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Voluntary Sector Forum (VSF)



Midlothian Voluntary Action

Part of the Midlothian Third Sector Interface

<http://www.midlothiantsi.org.uk/>

Tel: 0131 663 9471

Voluntary Sector Forum

Voluntary Sector Forum (VSF)

The VSF is one of the main avenues used by the voluntary sector in Midlothian to discuss and attempt to influence Council and Community Planning Partnership policies and strategies. It is often approached by Council officers seeking to engage with the sector.

The VSF is open to all voluntary organisations and community groups based in or working in Midlothian.

The VSF gives local voluntary organisations and community groups the opportunity to discuss issues of importance to them.

It also gives them the opportunity to participate in the Community Planning Process. The VSF feeds voluntary sector views into the Community Planning Partnership (CPP); the Community Health Partnership (CHP); and the Health and Social Care Shadow Board, and also receives information about these Partnerships, through representatives, and consultations.

For example, in 2014, the VSF has been involved in the ongoing Midlothian Council Review of Grants Process.

The VSF has previously fed into the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) and the Single Midlothian Plan, and taken part in a variety of other consultations including for the Scottish Government and The Big Lottery.

There are opportunities for voluntary sector organisations to represent the VSF on a range of Partnerships, Panels, Groups and Sub-Groups, either directly through the VSF, or through the Voluntary Sector Children's sub-group.

The VSF also gives organisations an opportunity to meet other groups, make links, and publicise their services.

The VSF meets approximately 6-8 times a year. The meetings currently take place from 2-4 pm on Thursdays, at Midlothian Voluntary Action, 4-6 White Hart Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1AE. Tea and coffee are provided.

The Forum and sub-groups are organised and serviced by Midlothian Voluntary Action.

Sub-Groups

The main sub-group at present is the **Voluntary Sector Children's sub-group** (VSCsg).

Members of this group represent the voluntary sector on a number of relevant groups and sub-groups, including Child Protection Partnership, and Getting It Right for Every Midlothian Child (GIRFEMC) groups.

The VSCsg meets approximately 4 to 6 times a year on Mondays from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm.

The meetings are regularly attended by representatives from Midlothian Council, for example from Children's Services and Child Protection, giving members of the sub-group opportunities to meet them and discuss relevant issues.

Other sub-groups include the **Compact sub-group** which meets when required to discuss the Voluntary Sector Compact.

The **Voluntary Health and Social Care Reference Group** is currently developing representation to the Health and Social Care Shadow Board together with an effective two-way networking system for when the Board comes to full power in April 2015.