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## Welcome to the Summer Edition

Summer has arrived and with it comes warmer weather, less rain, and more opportunities to get out and about. Whether you will be away on a holiday or staying at home, we wish all our readers a safe and sunny summer.

In this edition we'll be taking an in-depth look at some of the recent work within the busy Grapevine Disability Information team and other happenings from around LCiL. We'll also be taking a look at changes on the horizon within the health and social care sector and answering some of the most common questions in relation to this.

Despite COVID-19 regulations and restrictions being mostly lifted, we know many are still concerned about the risks in visiting public spaces and events. In this edition we'll be taking a look at the new Distance Aware campaign and how this can help provide some reassurance in public spaces.

There are changes on the horizon too in Scotland with a new Disability Benefit being rolled out in August 2022. This new Adult Disability Payment will replace the existing Personal Independence Payment and marks the first devolved benefit to come to Scotland. Read on to find out more about this and how you may be affected.

On behalf of everyone at LCiL, we hope you enjoy reading this edition of Lothian Disability News and have a wonderful summer.



**Callum Ogden**

Disability Information Service Coordinator



**Whether you will be away on a holiday or staying at home, we wish all our readers a safe and sunny summer.**

# Grapevine Disability Information



**Meet the Grapevine Team and find out more about the work they do to support disabled people in Edinburgh.**

The Grapevine Disability Information service provides advice, information and support to disabled people, people with long-term conditions and older people in Edinburgh. The team is made up of four Information Officers: Andy, Christele, Heather and Ruth, as well as Callum the service coordinator.



The Grapevine service offers advice and information on a broad range of topics including benefits, income maximisation, community care services, social work services and more! In the last year our dedicated team supported over 420 individuals in Edinburgh through responding to 1256 separate enquiries and secured a massive £447,592 in financial gain for Edinburgh residents.



**Last year we secured a massive £447,592 in financial gain for Edinburgh residents**

## **How can I get support from the Grapevine Team?**

We offer support in a range of accessible formats including telephone, email, face-to-face appointment and Zoom. Call us on 0131 475 2370 to speak with our team or email [Grapevine@lothiancil.org.uk](mailto:Grapevine@lothiancil.org.uk).



# Welcome to the Team

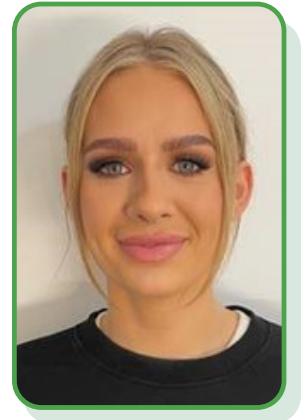
We're delighted to welcome some new faces to the team at LCiL.



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## Gillian

I'm Gillian, the new Accounts Payable Officer at LCiL. It's my first time doing a finance role - luckily I've got great teachers here and everyone is so supportive and friendly! My days at work have been flying by, and have learnt so much about the different teams and roles within LCiL. Most of my day is spent on Excel spreadsheets and looking through bank statements however I will soon be contacting some of our service users and building relationships with them directly which I am really looking forward to.



My work background is varied from customer service to retail and some childcare- all jobs that I can bring a little knowledge from into this current role. I spend the rest of my time working as a Makeup Artist in a local salon. The thing I love most about my job there is building special relationships with my clients, and giving them a little bit more confidence for whatever special event they are off to.

## Susan

I have been a fundraiser for over 16 years and I have worked for a variety of charities. I am excited to work for LCiL, helping to raise the funding needed to keep services running. I enjoy ensuring a charity is financially secure, knowing the money raised is going to frontline services for people who need them.



We have made a good start with Trust and Foundation funding applications. We already have 3 funding applications approved and a further 53 applications pending a funding decision.

When I'm not fundraising I enjoy spending time with my family and off-road cycling with friends.

## Joanna

I started working at LCIl in April and have worked for various charities in the past. A big part of my role is answering the main phone line which has been a great way to learn more about the organisation – as well as colleagues, service users and volunteers. LCIl's work is really varied so no two days are the same. And it's really rewarding to be able to contribute to that in a small way.

When not at work I enjoy running (slowly!), yoga and reading. And while I also love to travel I haven't done much of that recently!



## Eco-Friendly Award

**The LCIl website receives accreditation from the Eco-Friendly Website Alliance**



Eco-friendly  
Website  
EFWA ACCREDITED  
Valid Until 2023

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Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living is delighted to announce we are one of the first charities in Scotland to receive the Eco-Friendly Website Accreditation for our company website. This accreditation shows the commitment we have to reducing the carbon footprint of our website. We are proud to have worked with the Eco-Friendly Web Alliance to ensure each page view on our website generates less than 1 gram of CO<sub>2</sub>e.

Lyn Pornaro the CEO of Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living said:

“Being a responsible Third Sector Organisation is very important to us at Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living as sustainability and our social impact is something we strongly advocate and support. This accreditation recognises our digital sustainability leadership by taking responsibility to reduce the carbon footprint of our website and maintaining a low-carbon threshold while we work towards a net zero economy.”

# All-Change at LCIl

**We were sad to say goodbye as some of our colleagues move on to new opportunities.**

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## Peer Support and Learning Team

LCiL was sad to say goodbye to several longstanding members of our team who have moved on to exciting new opportunities. From our Peer Support and Learning team we said goodbye to Emma Wynack, our Senior Development Worker, as well as Dylan Beck, one of our Development Workers. Both Emma and Dylan were crucial in ensuring the project continued to thrive during the COVID-19 pandemic and helped shape the future direction of this fantastic team. Emma and Dylan will be hugely missed by all the staff and volunteers within LCIl!



We are however delighted to announce that amidst all this change Amanda Vickery - one of our amazing Development Workers - has accepted the role of Senior Development Worker within the team. Congratulations Amanda!

## Grapevine Disability Information Service

Meanwhile in our Grapevine Disability Information Service we have said goodbye to longstanding team members Nicola, service coordinator, and Alasdair, one of our Information Officers. Both Nicola and Alasdair supported hundreds of service users in the Grapevine Service during their time with LCIl making a significant difference for disabled people in Edinburgh. Nicola and Alasdair are moving onto new opportunities within the Edinburgh advice and information sector and we wish them all the best in their new adventures!

# Distance Aware Campaign

**A national initiative to enable individuals and organisations to politely prompt ongoing distancing and respect of individual social space.**

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The Distance Aware Scheme is a new initiative supported by the Scottish Government designed to help people who are concerned about sharing the same space with others as we adapt to living with COVID-19.

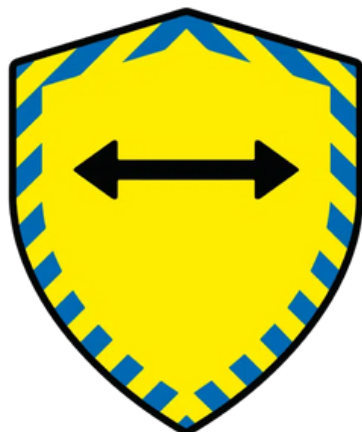
The Distance Aware Scheme is the perfect way of recognising and respecting those who require additional space by making use of the shield symbol (see below).

The shield symbol, displayed as a badge or lanyard, signals to others that the wearer requests extra distance and care around them.

Everyone can pick up a free Distance Aware badge or lanyard from any library across Scotland and there will also be free badges available in most Asda stores in Scotland.

If you prefer to get them online, here's a full list of charities to order from on the Bevan Commission Website

<https://www.bevancommission.org/programmes/distance-aware/>



# New Disability Benefit



**Adult Disability Payment will soon be replacing Personal Independence Payments in Scotland. Read on to find out how you may be affected.**

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In 2022 Social Security Scotland introduced a new benefit called Adult Disability Payment (ADP) to replace the existing Personal Independence Payments (PIP). ADP will be available for new applications nationally in Scotland from the 29th of August 2022.

## Frequently Asked Questions

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**I am currently claiming PIP and live in Scotland. Do I need to do anything?**

If you have an active claim for PIP you will be automatically transferred to ADP between Summer 2022 and Summer 2024.

**Will my payments change?**

Your Adult Disability Payment will be the same amount as your PIP. You'll be paid on the same day and there will be no gap in your payments during the move from PIP to Adult Disability Payment.

**Is the claims process for ADP different?**

The new claim process for ADP is similar to the claim process for PIP. You can contact Social Security Scotland directly once ADP goes live on 29th August in Edinburgh by phoning 0800 182 2222 (8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday). The claim can also be completed online by visiting <https://www.mygov.scot/adult-disability-payment/how-to-apply>

**Is support available for Adult Disability Payment?**

The Grapevine Disability Information service offers advice, information and support with Adult Disability Payment. Call us on 0131 475 2370 Monday - Friday 10am to 4pm to speak with our team or email [Grapevine@lothiancil.org.uk](mailto:Grapevine@lothiancil.org.uk).



**Your Adult Disability Payment will be the same amount as your PIP**



# Summer Services from LCiL

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At LCiL, providing high-quality, independent support services for disabled people, people with long-term conditions and older people is one of our highest priorities.

As we enter the summer months of 2022 we expect demand for our services to increase. We are also pleased to be able to offer more face-to-face opportunities for support again as COVID-19 restrictions are rolled back, whether it be Peer Support Groups or assistance with completing income maximisation checks and benefit applications through our Grapevine Disability Information service.

With increased demand over this period there is, despite our best efforts, the potential for an increased waiting time before one of our team is able to respond to new enquiries. While we aim to respond to the majority of enquiries within three working days, there may be occasions in the coming weeks where service users experience a longer wait before our team has capacity to respond.

Likewise, you may find some calls to our service go straight to answerphone during busy periods; if this happens please do leave your name, contact details and we will try to return your call as soon as possible.

We understand this may be frustrating, especially for more pressing enquiries. To help ensure we provide support where it is most needed, our teams will try to prioritise urgent and time-sensitive enquiries first and foremost.

Thank you for your patience during this time as we continue offering trusted services that people in Edinburgh and the Lothians can depend on.

# National Care Service

**A National Care Service Bill has been published in Scotland which could bring big changes to how Social Care is delivered. Read on to find out more.**

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On 20th June 2022 the Scottish Government published the first draft of the National Care Service (NCS) Bill following the recommendations of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care.

The NCS will be responsible for social work and social care support, including support for carers. It will also be responsible for planning and commissioning primary care and community health services. The core aims of the NCS include to:

- enable people of all ages to access timely, consistent, equitable and fair, quality health and social care support across Scotland
- provide services that are co-designed with people who access and deliver care and support, respecting, protecting and fulfilling their human rights



**The NCS will be responsible for social work and social care support, including support for carers**

## What Happens Next?

The Scottish Government is committed to establishing a functioning NCS by the end of the current parliamentary term in 2026, but publishing this Bill this is just the beginning of the this process.

LCiL is committed to championing the rights of disabled people and as a member of the Independent Living Movement will be working closely with the Scottish Government to ensure the voice of disabled people is included in all consultations around the creation of the NCS in the coming years. Stay tuned for more information on how you can get involved in this process in the coming months.

# Support our Work

**With your help, we can do more to support disabled people in Edinburgh and the Lothians.**

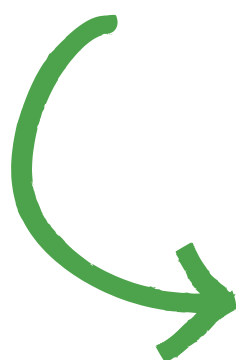
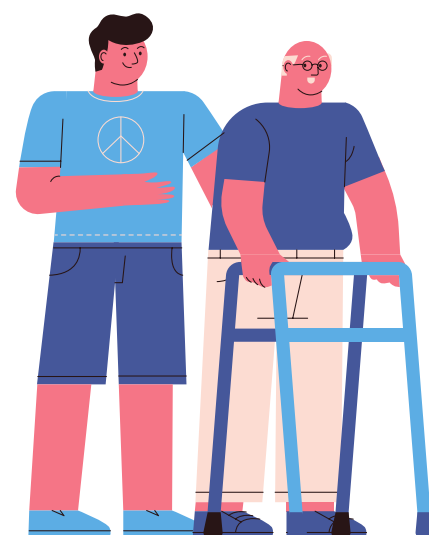


As a registered charity in Scotland, we depend on the support of the public and funders to be able to continue providing our services in Edinburgh and the Lothians. One of the ways you can help support LCIIL and our essential services is by helping to raise funds, or by directly supporting our work through a donation.

If you want to directly support our work, you can now do so simply and securely online by Debit/Credit card payments, on either a one-off or recurring basis.

We welcome donations from individuals and organisations. Your donation to LCIIL will help us to deliver our services, advance the rights of disabled people and ensure that Independent Living is a reality for disabled people, people with long-term conditions and older people in Edinburgh and the Lothians.

- £5.00 could help to provide independent up-to-date disability information and advice.
- £10.00 could help to run peer support workshops and groups for disabled people and parents/carers.
- £50.00 could help to train volunteer Champions to inspire and educate peers, professionals and policy.








**Visit us online to  
find out more**

**[www.lothiancil.org.uk/support-us/make-a-donation](http://www.lothiancil.org.uk/support-us/make-a-donation)**

# LCiL SDS Events

July to September 2022



<p>West Lothian Disabled Person Peer Support</p> <p><i>Thursday 7th July 11am at Carmondean</i></p>	<p>Edinburgh Disabled Person Peer Support</p> <p><i>Tuesday 9th August 11am at Norton Park</i></p>	<p>Online Disabled Person Peer Support</p> <p><i>Thursday 15th September 11am on Zoom</i></p>
<p>Online Disabled Person Peer Support</p> <p><i>Thursday 21st July 11am on Zoom</i></p>	<p>Edinburgh Parent Carer Support</p> <p> <i>Monday 22nd August 11am on Zoom</i></p>	<p>Edinburgh Disabled Person Peer Support</p> <p><i>Thursday 22nd September 11am at Norton Park</i></p>
<p>Edinburgh Parent Carer Peer Support</p> <p> <i>Monday 25th July 11am on Zoom</i></p>	<p>Edinburgh Disabled Person Peer Support</p> <p><i>Thursday 25th August 11am at Norton Park</i></p>	<p>Edinburgh Parent Carer Support</p> <p> <i>Monday 26th August 11am on Zoom</i></p>
<p>Edinburgh Disabled Person Peer Support</p> <p><i>Thursday 28th July 11am at Norton Park</i></p>	<p>West Lothian Disabled Person Peer Support</p> <p> <i>Thursday 1st September 11am at Carmondean</i></p>	
<p>Online Disabled Person Peer Support</p> <p><i>Tuesday 2nd August 11am on Zoom</i></p>	<p>Edinburgh Disabled Person Peer Support</p> <p><i>Tuesday 6th September 11am at Norton Park</i></p>	
<p>West Lothian Disabled Person Peer Support</p> <p> <i>Thursday 4th August 11am at Carmondean</i></p>	<p>PA Employer Forum</p> <p><i>Wednesday 14th September 11am on Zoom</i></p>	

## Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living

Self-Directed Support Events July to September 2022  
[www.lothiancil.org.uk](http://www.lothiancil.org.uk)

Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living  
57 Albion Rd  
Edinburgh  
EH7 5QY

If you have any questions or would like to book on to an event then please get in contact via 0131 475 2350 or email [SDS@lothiancil.org.uk](mailto:SDS@lothiancil.org.uk) to obtain the Zoom link.

**Please Note:** Our workshops are open to people in all local authority areas – East Lothian, West Lothian, Midlothian, and Edinburgh. Furthermore, we encourage those in local authority areas without a currently listed peer support group to please join one of our other groups for the time being.



# Get in Touch

**Thank you for reading this edition of Lothian Disability News - read on to see how you can get in touch with feedback and suggestions.**

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## Contact Us

If you have questions or comments about anything you have read in this newsletter, or have feedback on how we can improve this newsletter for future editions, we would welcome your feedback.



Please email [callum.ogden@lothiancil.org.uk](mailto:callum.ogden@lothiancil.org.uk) to pass on any questions or comments!

## Autumn Edition Preview

That wraps up this summer edition of Lothian Disability News. We hope the articles and look into the Grapevine team were an interesting read.

In our next edition of our newsletter we will be putting a spotlight on the work carried out by our Payroll team. We'll be offering a behind the scenes look so you can get to know this team, the work they do, and how you may benefit from the services they offer!

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