

# Fa'side Area Partnership

## Minutes of the meeting of the Fa'side Area Partnership

21<sup>st</sup> January 2025, 19:00-21:00

### Attendance

#### Chair

1. Bill Axon [BA]

#### Members and substitute members present:

2. Debbie Middlemass, Vice Chair [DM]
3. Carla Allan, VCEL [CA]
4. Cllr Kenny McLeod, Elected Member, ELC [KMc]
5. Cllr Shamin Akhtar, Elected Member, ELC [SA]
6. Richard Kerr, Pencaitland & District CC [RK]
7. Russel McLarty, FaCTS Chair [RMcL]
8. Kathryn-Jane James, Support from the Start [KJJ]
9. Alan Bell, REcharge [AB]
10. David Todd, Macmerry & Gladsmuir CC [DT]
11. Cllr Colin McGinn, Elected Member, ELC [CMcG]
12. Loreen Pardoe, Ross high Parent Teacher Council [LP]

#### Others in attendance

- Andy Cheshire, Connected Communities Manager - Fa'side, ELC [AC]  
Jude Henderson, CDO, Connected Communities – Fa'side, ELC [JH]  
Tracey Redpath, CDO, Connected Communities – Fa'side, ELC [TR]  
Lorna Bellany (NHS), Population Health Project Manager [LB]

#### Apologies

- Donald Grant, Co-opted member [DG]  
Grace Stirton, TRA Ormiston [GS]  
Cllr Fiona Dugdale, Elected Member, ELC [FD]  
Rosanne Woods, Chair of the H&WB Group [RW]

Key Discussion Points	
1.	<p><b>Welcome</b> BA welcomed everybody to the meeting.</p> <p><b>Apologies</b> Apologies are noted above.</p>
2.	<p><b>Declaration of interest from agenda items</b></p> <p>RMcL having technical issues. TR informed AP that RMcL has a conflict of interest with the application to FaCTS funding from Natural Connections as he is chair of The Heugh Gardens.</p>
3.	<p><b>Approval of minutes</b></p> <p>BA went through the minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024.</p> <p>No challenge to accuracy.</p> <p>Approved by DM. Seconded by CM.</p>
4.	<p><b>Working for Change Collective [LB]</b></p> <p>Presentation had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. LB delivered on behalf of Michaela, the lived experience coordinator for WFCC.</p> <p>LB is from Public Health and acts as a support for the group, alongside Lucy Higginson (ELC), Pennypit CDT and VCEL.</p> <p>The presentation included an overview of WFCC’s mission and objectives.</p> <p>LB mentioned the origins of the project, how Sean Crawford was the driving force behind the initiative to get people’s voices heard by those with decision making responsibilities. It is about making sure that those with the power in communities listen to and understand the experiences of local people so things can change – be it discrimination, financial hardship, disability, etc. It’s about a bottom-up approach to affecting change.</p> <p>LB explained that WFCC’s ethos consists of having people’s voices heard and for people on the ground to have a voice and feel empowered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Voices heard – wanting to hear from real communities to tell decision makers about the challenges they are facing.</li> <li>- Actions taken – holding decision makers responsible for listening – making change happen. LB and Lucy H are part of this group so they can collate experiences and voices to a strategic level.</li> <li>- Response given – if changes aren’t going to happen then understanding the reasons why.</li> </ul> <p>LB explained WFCC’s methodology.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conversation Café—relaxed and more informal drop-in sessions.</li> <li>- Conversations for Change—focused and aiming to look more deeply at solutions to the points raised at the conversation cafes.</li> <li>- Stigma Campaign—focus of the collective as it’s a key issue people experience. Mentioned the blue post boxes that have been placed around the community.</li> </ul> <p>So far, the collective has influenced ELC Benefits Campaign, ELC Poverty Plan, led a session on lived experience during the Child Poverty Self-Assessment, took part in an Oxford University research project around resilience and poverty, and collaborated with local groups and services such as EL Foodbank and NHS Lothian.</p> <p>It is WFCC’s wish to work alongside more organisations and mentioned that they are always on the look out for places to be able to host conversation cafes, groups or networks they could approach and assistance with promoting and advertising the collective, share social media, etc. Contact information was provided at the end of the presentation.</p> <p>BA thanked LB and prompted the group to raise any questions.</p> <p>AC mentioned that the next conversation café is at VCEL tomorrow (22/01/2025) from 12-2.</p> <p>LB encouraged everyone to attend.</p> <p>SA pointed out, with regards to Health and Social Care, that it might be a good idea for WFCC to carry out integrated impact assessment involving service users.</p> <p>LB mentioned concerns that these IIAs might not be accessible for the general public but agreed it would have a positive impact. LB also mentioned the Growing and Changing group (WFCC for younger people). LB expressed that IIA’s could be the way forward, but it would need to be a safe space for the collective groups.</p> <p>SA happy to look into making IIAs less stigmatising, similar to the work already completed with The Local Housing Strategy.</p> <p>AB wondering if LB would be willing to bring along some of the people from WFCC to inspire some of the young individuals.</p> <p>LB assured she would be in touch. LB said that the Growing for Change campaign is currently ‘what makes a supportive person’, and this could be a good conversation starter for those young people at Recharge.</p> <p>BA thanked LB for her time.</p>	LB/AB
5.	<p><b>Matters Arising [AC]</b></p> <p><b>Historic. Letter of thanks from SD to Andrew Hogarth.</b> SD has now purchased the vouchers and will soon write the letters. AC and TR to hand deliver. <b>Ongoing.</b></p> <p><b>Fa’side Community Kitchen</b> – Trustees still being sought. TR informed that she is interim chair for FCK until new candidate is found and mentioned AGM is coming up</p>	AC

	<p>with invites being circulated. They also have a meeting next week with potential treasurer. <b>Ongoing.</b></p> <p><b>Historic. REcharge Young Formers.</b> AB has mentioned an online meeting is intimidating and Young Formers would prefer a face-to-face after the exam period. AB has requested that this be re-visited over the coming months with a view to June 2025. <b>Ongoing.</b></p> <p><b>Positive stories of young people.</b> Changing the narrative as young people are stigmatised. AC encouraged members to share any positive stories involving young people with AB and JH. <b>Ongoing.</b></p> <p><b>Roads update:</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Concerns raised by the partnership regarding budget. AC to update during next meeting. <b>Ongoing.</b></p> <p><b>East Lothian Partnership self-assessment.</b> Closed on 13<sup>th</sup> November. AC shared that Emma Brown and Lucy Higginson Reported that the results are expected by the end of January. CA will share this with members through admin support. <b>Ongoing.</b></p>	<p>TR</p> <p>AB</p> <p>AB/JH</p> <p>AC</p> <p>CA</p>
6.	<b>Connected Communities Team Update</b>	
	<p><b>a. Manager's Update [AC]</b></p> <p>AC recognised and thanked JH for her positive impact since starting with regards to improving services for children and young people. AC also recognised and thanked JH for her contribution over the festive period and her support with the Festive Provision project.</p> <p>107 households/265 children benefitting from Cash 4 Kids. 113 Jingle Bags 111 New Year Bags</p> <p>Community Asset Transfer/Community Wealth Building - Zahra Hussain is now focusing on rolling out a training and development package to further improve everyone's understanding on the matter of CAT. AC informed the partnership that ZH has had her contract extended to 31/10/25 as part of the UKSPF (funding).</p> <p>AC thanked TR and Neil Bainbridge for their contributions since the last partnership meeting and how the Fa'side Connected Communities Team will look to focus their workload over the coming weeks to ensure quality of work is maintained and improved on.</p> <p>AC informed of upcoming internal audit of Area Partnerships and will work alongside admin support to ensure due diligence is being followed between now and the forthcoming AGM.</p> <p>AC has tasked the team (including AC), to compile an end of year report for AGM in March.</p>	<p>AC</p>

<p>Expectation that prior to the AGM emails will go out from the AP to discern members and substitutes for each organisation.</p> <p>Handover from SD has now been completed. AC will share some historical projects with members when possible.</p> <p>AC spoke about the support provided to the board of REcharge and for the sake of the minutes, acknowledged that a quorate number of votes were received in favour of funding REcharge with the money that was being returned to the partnership from Centre Stage. This was for a total of £13,648.92.</p> <p>AB has thanked AP members for their contribution and made a point of noting that both he and the board of Recharge reserve particular thanks to AC for his tireless support over the last couple of months.</p> <p>SA -asked about the procedural guidance document surrounding Community Asset Transfer. AC mentioned that this document has been produced by Zahra Hussain, CDO for Community Asset Transfer and Community Wealth Building. It is yet to be formally approved, but it's aim is to support council staff with the information required surrounding CAT process.</p>	AC
<p><b>b. Tracey Redpath's Officer Update [TR]</b></p> <p>Walking action plan—Pencaitland, Fraser Centre, REcharge and Macmerry. 4 events across 4 venues. Online survey was put out with good responses received. Data currently being analysed and will be showcased at the library once ready. There will also be an event to showcase the findings at Pencaitland. This will then be circulated.</p> <p>Plans to improve access and look at possible options for a path between Pencaitland and East Saltoun – particularly now that East Saltoun PS has been shut with children attending Pencaitland. This will all be included in the walking plan.</p> <p>Ongoing conversation with Katherine at Parish Church. Walking group starting on Saturday mornings including interested members of the parish. Looking for a walk leader and someone locally that would like to attend the training.</p> <p>Festive Period was a success. Over 100 households were supported.</p> <p>Over 80 Christmas meals delivered by volunteers on Christmas day by FCK.</p> <p>SA asked about the work regarding the Ultras, and TR confirmed this will be covered in JH update.</p>	TR
<p><b>c. Jude Henderson's Officer Update [JH]</b></p> <p>Youth Clubs - very positive end of season with all 3 groups coming together for a film event at the Fraser Centre. Elphinstone also went on a trip to Edinburgh for one of the ghost walks.</p> <p>New season will now last until Easter time. This has been extended by two weeks to ensure a 10-week provision.</p>	

	<p>Elphinstone club is making posters to remind people to pick up dog faeces – so article 12 active citizenship (UNCRC) being highlighted/acted on here.</p> <p>Funding is available to be allocated to a new project that addresses inequality in access to tutoring in collaboration with Ross High School. The project will provide support to students struggling with their mathematics and will include a meal. JH will provide a further update during next meeting.</p> <p>SA expressed her support of the project and raised the question of how the students are being deemed as being in need of the support.</p> <p>JH declared that the project will be targeted, and the students will be referred based on the lower SIND as well as consider students who have applied themselves but need extra support. JH has met with both Paul Reynolds and Nikki (Equity PT) to ensure the referral process is appropriate.</p> <p>JH informed that the location of these tutoring sessions is still not confirmed. REcharge and Enjoy Leisure are both a possibility. JH to send an update when available.</p> <p>AC explained that this project is funded by Scottish Government funding that is issued to the area partnership – there was an underspend of £1499.50 which is usually utilised for lunch clubs, but due to these already being funded, it was an opportunity to support high school aged young people and look at raising attainment levels from this cohort.</p> <p>LB remarked the importance of evaluations in order to evidence the impact and ensure the funding continues to come in.</p> <p>JH assures the project will be evaluated and will be happy to share with anyone wanting to read through them once available.</p> <p>LB also mentioned possibility to link project with Growing and Changing who have a similar goal of integrating marginalised youth.</p> <p>Ultras - very positive session yesterday. Conversations around how to integrate Ultras into the community and to provide understanding to the subculture. JH expressed that this project would include accreditation in the form of Dynamic Youth Awards.</p> <p>DT pointed out that the Ultras are signing up to a new code of conduct and asked if those we are engaging with are the ones we should be. JH assured that one of the highest risk individuals was one of the most involved in the project.</p> <p>JH – new evaluation document been launched at youth clubs that incorporates the rights of the child and the outcomes of the youth work wheel. These have been trialled last term and will be utilised consistently now going forward. JH welcomes the opportunity to liaise with LB and the Growing for Change Collective and will make contact.</p>	<p>JH</p> <p>JH</p> <p>JH</p> <p>JH</p>
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	<p>New bill being proposed which will protect young people’s right to youth work. JH to circulate once available. The bill demonstrates the importance of youth work for young people in addressing inequalities.</p> <p>SA thanked JH for bringing this up – as it was produced by Martin Whitfield MP.</p> <p>SA thanked everybody for their work engaging young people, REcharge, CMcG, JH, TR and AC.</p> <p>Martin Whitfield proposed Bill – our workforce development team within Connected Communities had this on our agenda and formulated a collective response to the proposal. AC reported that some of the young people that attended Winter Fest felt that the proposal and the questions attached to the proposal were not young person friendly and this has been fed back.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Consultation Hub</b></p> <p><b>Equality Outcome Setting.</b> Closing the 31<sup>st</sup> of January this is an opportunity for members of the public to inform HSCPs across the Lothians about which key areas are most important.</p> <p><b>Families Together.</b> Closing end of September. Invites families to share experiences via online survey.</p> <p><b>Child Poverty consultation.</b> Online survey, up to 20 minutes. AC to share link.</p>	AC
8.	<p><b>Subgroup/network updates</b></p> <p><b>a. Fa’side Climate, Transport and Sustainability (FaCTS) [RMcL]</b></p> <p><b>Natural Connections</b> have recently put in an application for £10 million to the new Urban Forest Challenge Fund, whose priority are areas with fewer trees.</p> <p>The project’s aim was to get 1,000 people planting trees in Tranent specifically, however this did not make the list as the fund was oversubscribed. The group was however encouraged to re-apply in November 2025.</p> <p>Another reason for not making the cut was lack of match funding.</p> <p>There are plans to make a combined application with Heugh Garden in November. RMcL feels this is a great overarching project which should involve other areas and other projects under the same umbrella. RMcL also feels that this is an opportunity to open up a ‘big conversation’ surrounding Tranent Tree Towns, bringing good advisors in to ensure a well-coordinated application towards the end of this year.</p> <p>SA remarked Effie Renton from Friends of the River Tyne has similar passion and aims, and volunteers have planted around 800 trees over the three days prior to the meeting.</p> <p>RMcL agreed that collaboration will be key in this ambitious project including the tree officer, climate hub, groups like wombles, friends of Polson Park, etc.</p>	

DT mentioned Alan Lauder got trees from the Woodland Trust which have now been planted.

RMcL pointed out that the tree supply isn't the biggest challenge but getting volunteers and motivating people to participate.

**Wee Green Festival.** Great event last year which attracted significant attention to The Fraser Centre around climate change. This is planned again for March 2025.

**Walking Action Plan.** Excited about this due to the long-term ambition of the group to map out walking routes and construct an interactive map for the local community.

**East Lothian Heat Network.** There will be a feasibility study. The Councillors are supportive, and the group has a budget of £100,000. This funding derives from a collaboration of community councils that have been able to draw in wind farm funds. The study also aims to look at fuel poverty. The group's ambition is to become a community where "no heat is wasted, and no home is cold." This will affect 97,000 homes.

RMcL stressed that Dunbar and Musselburgh have already set up volunteer community heat teams with the aim to ensure that homes are well insulated and suggested that Fa'side becomes the next community to take action by forming a group of volunteers to become a community heat team for Fa'side and use thermal cameras to identify leakage of heat within homes locally.

RMcL also thanked TR for being a great support and always available to help!

DT raised how there is a similar project by a Swedish organisation which might shine some light on how the heat pumps work.

RMcL clarified that the main towns are not the project's only aim but surrounding villages also which might not be connected to the main pipe work but may be from a 'community heat pump' and added that the proposal for East Lothian is not only for those large towns, but also for smaller hubs that could share a localised heat pump.

TR recalled a meeting with consultants from London along with active travel department about journey hubs. Options are limited and no funding is currently available for bus stops.

TR asked for the partnership's approval on the best course of action during RMcL's absence.

RMcL assured that it will be possible to maintain communication online and to keep things going.

TR informed there is still funding available through FaCTS. Still a work in progress as to who is awarded the money.

DT starting a gardening club which he will be getting in touch with TR about.

<p><b>b. Fa'side Health and Well Being [TR]</b></p> <p>Successful applicants for Community Mental Health and Wellbeing funding have now been notified.</p> <p>Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February.</p> <p>Small amount of funding left. Awaiting an application from EL Food Bank for the Easter holidays.</p>	
<p><b>c. Fa'side Young Formers/Children and Young People Subgroup Recharge [AB]</b></p> <p>Young Formers have now done a fundraiser and looking at how they will spend the money. They will be doing a consultation with the young people to see what is needed and to find out what young people's opinions on REcharge are.</p> <p>They are looking to plan a community quiz in the near future.</p> <p>The younger group have delivered a Christmas fair. AB thanked everyone involved. They applied through the Big Ideas Fund from Youth Scotland – raising the money themselves with hours being obtained to go towards obtaining Youth Awards accreditation.</p> <p>They have also been successful with a funding bid which they got four fruit trees and hedgerow from. They will be linking in with the Wombles to install and maintain in Tranent.</p> <p>They will be working with FCK and try to run an event, potentially a karaoke as it is a popular idea for those attending FCK.</p> <p>SA queried the concern raised by young people regarding street lightning.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">AB explained that the concerns are regarding some dark areas, particularly in the new building area from Carlaverock to Scott Glynn Walk, where only half of the way is lit up and there is no path. This was addressed in the Walking Action Plan meeting. AB has offered to share this with councillors to make them aware of the issues.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">CMcG pointed out that discussions have been had around a path which was never meant to have streetlights. Unsure however if it is the same path AB referenced.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">AB to draw up a map to clear up which exact path is being discussed.</p>	<p>AB</p> <p>AB</p>
<p><b>d. Fa'side Children's and Young People Professionals Forum [AB]</b></p> <p>Meeting in December with a focus on Summer holiday activities to try to coordinate approach as lack of coordination has been an issue in the past.</p> <p>They are currently looking at young people from 0 to 18, which will be divided into four groups (pre-school, primary, secondary and additional support needs).</p>	

	<p>AB currently trying to identify funding options to hopefully get funding secured early on.</p> <p>LB highlighted that Changes in Musselburgh are currently looking at the gap for teenagers who are not old enough to be included in the adult waiting list for ADHD and autism assessments. They will be doing nature walks and similar activities which might make them relevant to link in with. LB offered to make that introduction.</p> <p>AB has thanked LB and noted this would have been missed out otherwise.</p> <p>Primary 6 group in Macmerry. Approaching the final stages of planning. Thanks to JH and dates will be confirmed by JH in due course.</p> <p>Impact of the Haven moving to Haddington and the drop in facility not being available in Tranent. There is an ongoing conversation with Haven to get satellite sessions back to Tranent.</p> <p>Summer programme and activities. Considerable number of young people frequenting Tranent Library during the holidays. The Arts Service will aim to get a programme done for them.</p> <p>AC mentioned that it is mainly hungry young people who visit the library after school as they have nowhere else to go. AC informed it seems to be working well and shared support for the idea of collaborative projects in order to engage them further.</p> <p>AC also pointed out the funding constraints and mentioned that come Easter these might become a larger issue, highlighting what an achievement these programmes are considering the lack of funding available and the importance of a collaborative approach.</p> <p>SA suggested that there usually is a surplus of school packed lunches in Ormiston and the situation might be similar in Tranent, which might tackle food waste while supporting young people.</p> <p>AC assures this is already happening in Tranent.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Third Sector update [CA]</b></p> <p>CA clarified that everyone has had their letter of confirmation now for the Community Mental Health and Well-being.</p> <p>CA encouraged anyone who has not been successful to get in touch for help.</p>	
10	<p><b>Budget update [AC]</b></p> <p>General budget has now been exhausted, which was decided at the last meeting.</p> <p>Underspend for the H&amp;WB sub-group of £1,731, which is anticipated to be spent as mentioned by TR.</p> <p>Underspend on the FaCTS sub-group of £1,800.</p>	

	<p>AC clarified that the Amenities budget is not a monetary budget but a resource one, so bulbs for planting can't be bought.</p> <p>Roads. There is currently an underspend of £24,113.</p> <p>AC has raised concerns on how the roads budget is spent. AC aims to meet with colleagues from roads and amenities in April to avoid being in the same position next year.</p> <p>Application from Macmerry Community Council for an LED speed reactive sign.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">DT declared interest in application.</p> <p>SA – supports Macmerry speed reactive sign. Also asked about the Friday afternoon pressure points that libraries will face and asked for a paper to be circulated which demonstrates the level of funding required.</p> <p>AC and JH to circulate.</p>	AC/JH
11	<p><b>AGM – Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025 [AC]</b></p> <p>Not much information available apart from the date. The beginning of the meeting will be used to go through the standing orders and the meeting will then continue normally as any other AP meeting.</p> <p>Both BA and DMM are happy to continue in their roles as chair and vice-chair, respectively.</p> <p>AC to have a meeting with admin support to ensure due diligence is being followed.</p> <p>TR has mentioned that she is working on ensuring an accurate and up to date distribution list is formulated in the coming weeks.</p>	
12	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p><b>FaCTS group's request</b> to have autonomy in making decisions for smaller grants. They are requesting to submit a Role and Remit at the next AP meeting with a view to having autonomy in decision making for their own budget.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">BA expressed his support. <i>No objections.</i></p> <p><b>Applications.</b> Macmerry and Gladsmuir Community Council – LED speed reactive sign.</p> <p><i>No objections.</i></p> <p>Heugh Garden/Natural Connections – Ash Die Back Removal.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">TR explained that tree surgeons are required to go on site in order to remove five big trees and dispose of them in order to make the place safe again.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A small portion of the funding will go towards developing the garden.</p>	

	<i>No objections.</i>	
13	<b>Dates of 2025 area partnership meetings – 25/3, 24/6, 23/9 &amp; 25/11</b>  <b>BA asked members for any other input.</b>  <b>DT pointed out that data from LED speed reactive is kept by the Roads Department and is accessible as it may be useful for future applications.</b>  <b>LP reminded members that there is a survey available looking for views of women and girls around being in parks and other open spaces.</b>	