

Gordon Macdonald

Member of the Scottish Parliament
for Edinburgh Pentlands

May 2022

Consultation on Future of Health & Care Services



People across Lothian are being encouraged to help ensure health and care services are fit for the future. A major engagement exercise was launched on 19 April by the four Health and Social Care Partnerships across the Lothians.

Gordon commented, "NHS Lothian are planning how services should be designed and delivered over the next five years. Their priorities will include ensuring that people have equal access to the right care and support, wherever they live in the region."

Calum Campbell, NHS Lothian Chief Executive, said, "The past two years have been hugely challenging, so we need to make sure that we prioritise resources as effectively as possible to reduce waiting times."

The move comes against a backdrop of challenges facing health and care services that existed even before the pandemic. More people are living longer — a testament to improvements in general population health and innovation in medicine and healthcare — but this has also created the highest ever demand for these services.

The public are invited to be involved by reading the draft framework and providing feedback or by attending one of the virtual events being held over the next few months. More information is available: <https://org.nhslothian.scot/Strategies/LSDF/Pages/default.aspx>

Broomhouse Memorial Garden



Gordon was delighted to attend the opening of the Broomhouse Memorial Garden located in the grounds of St David's Church.

Gordon noted, "During the pandemic, many people have lost loved ones and are not able to grieve for them in the manner they would have liked. Therefore, I am pleased that this memorial garden has been planted for this purpose after conversations with the community."

The church gave some of their land for the garden and the local community have been keen supporters of the project, raising 25% of the costs of the garden.

The garden is now open as a space for peace and reflection.

ALSO THIS MONTH...

Homes for Ukraine Scheme



Scotland is open and welcoming displaced people from Ukraine.

Nicola Sturgeon said, "Scotland has strong links with Ukraine – Edinburgh is twinned with Kyiv and many Ukrainians have chosen our country as their home – and we will continue to provide practical help as it faces Russia's unprovoked and illegal aggression."

The UK Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme relies on individuals in the UK, with at least 6 months leave to remain, acting as a sponsor and matching with people displaced from Ukraine. However, the Scottish Government's super sponsor scheme removes the need for applicants to be matched prior to being given permission to travel to the UK.

Gordon noted, "By acting as 'super sponsor', rather than waiting for the UK Government's matching process, Scotland can provide safety and sanctuary immediately and welcome significant numbers. The First Minister has suggested 3,000 as an immediate step on the Scottish Super Sponsor Scheme, and then a proportionate share of the UK total"

City of Edinburgh Council have a 24-hour help line for advice on accommodation and support: - 0131 200 2306 (+441312002306) www.edinburgh.gov.uk/ukraine

Balerno SSPCA



Gordon was pleased to visit the Scottish SPCA Edinburgh & Lothians Animal Rescue & Rehoming Centre in Balerno.

Gordon said, "I was very pleased to be able to visit once again the Balerno SSPCA Centre. The Centre do a fantastic job of rescuing and rehoming many animals from around my constituency and the city."

The centre opened its doors in 1930 and was originally set up as a horses rest farm due to concerns about the welfare of working horses. Over the years it evolved to become a facility capable of caring for all sorts of animals and currently has 38 dog kennels, 42 cat units, 12 stables, and facilities for small mammals, reptiles, fish, and birds.

Donations are always welcome and for more information go to:

www.scottishspca.org/our-work/edinburgh-lothians

New Deal For Tenants



The Scottish Government is undertaking a review of the Scottish rented housing sector ("A New Deal for Tenants — Draft Rented Sector Strategy") with a view to improve accessibility, affordability, choices, and standards across the whole country.

Gordon stated, "The draft strategy sets out and invites views on how we can deliver a new deal for tenants to progress the right to an adequate home and deliver our vision for Housing to 2040.

"It is the aim of the strategy that all tenants, whether living in private or social rented homes, can access secure, stable, tenancies, with affordable choices, whilst also benefiting from good quality homes and professional levels of service and rights."

The Scottish Government aims to publish the review by the end of 2022.

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Weekly Surgeries

Gordon is now holding open surgeries for constituents to attend every Friday at 10am. The locations for these can be found at: -

<https://www.gordonmacdonaldmsp.info/surgery>

Working for Edinburgh Pentlands