

## STAKEHOLDER COMMENT FORM

### Stakeholder Comments

Please use this form to submit comments or suggestions.

1. Please put each new comment in a new row.
2. Please do not paste other tables into this table, as your comments could get lost - type directly into this table.
3. **Please always refer to section numbers (and not page numbers.)** Insert the **section number** and paragraph (within each section) in the first column (see examples).
4. If your comment relates to the document as a whole, please put **'general'** in this column. (See examples).

**To be considered your completed form MUST be returned by 28 February 2008.**

<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Organisation:</b>	Midlothian Council
<b>Section number</b>  Indicate <b>section number</b> or <b>'general'</b> if your comment relates to the whole document	<b>Comments</b>  <b>Please insert each new comment in a new row.</b>
General	<p>Midlothian Council welcomes the consultation document and is in broad agreement with the direction proposed as part of the National Programme for Improving Mental Health and Well being. Through our Community Planning process and work to develop the Mental Health Strategy in partnership with Lothian Health Board, Midlothian Council is endeavouring to embrace the wide agenda as described in this document. There is agreement that tackling health, social and economic inequalities is fundamental to improving the mental well-being of local populations. Action plans for tackling other areas such as alcohol and drug abuse, anti-social behaviour should all contribute to improving the mental well being of communities and individuals.</p> <p>Midlothian Council is committed to addressing inequalities which is fundamental to the mental well being agenda. It is</p>

	<p>specifically targeting action on inequalities through the Community Planning process. Its Equality Strategy and Action Plan set targets and mechanisms to monitor the Council's performance in the appropriate areas on issues across the Council in relation to equalities. The consultation document highlights the need to ensure that we build in the elements of the mental well-being agenda to complement the principles already underpinning our work.</p> <p>We would welcome more explicit reference to the '<i>Getting it Right for Every Child</i>' agenda, the main driver and a key measure for underpinning outcomes and action plans within Children's Services.</p>
Re. 8.3.3	As part of the With Inclusion in Mind agenda we are looking to extend Mental Health Awareness training to a wider range of Council and partner agency staff.
Re. 8.4	The premise of the need to address inequalities underpins our own Equalities agenda. However there is also a need to note that individuals with mental health problems and illnesses are more likely to be unemployed, not own their own home as a consequence of their illness and therefore be over represented in a deprived community.
Re. 8.5.1	There is broad agreement with this paragraph. However it is crucial to note that help, support and care need to be more readily available and easily accessed. This has been more recently highlighted in the next stage to developing our Mental Health strategy. There is a recognition that much work is still required in developing a Stepped Care model for those experiencing mental health difficulties and that this is now a challenge to delivering on the mental health agenda. At present provision or access to alternatives to health services frequently is not available. Where alternatives exist, these are often patchy and uncoordinated. This poses an additional challenge to delivering on other mental health targets such as Reducing the Rate of Prescribing of anti-depressants or reduction in suicide rates.
Re. 9.1	Improving the "literacy" around mental well being and mental health fits well with the With Inclusion in Mind agenda and should underpin agendas for Community planning and development.
Re: 9.2	See comments re 8.5.1. All the actions suggested in this paragraph will require considerable work and resources which to date have not been identified locally.
Re 9.4 bullet point 2	Midlothian Council will develop a Council wide action plan in relation to the With Inclusion in Mind recommendations.
Re: 9.4 bullet point 3	To note that Midlothian Council is itself the biggest local employer. A review of the Council's employment policies

	<p>will ensure that they are in line with this recommended action, thus having a significant impact on progress in supporting improved and vocational outcomes for people experiencing mental illness for Midlothian as a whole.</p>
Re. 9.5	<p>This paragraph highlights the need for joined up planning and service delivery. This will be key to successful outcomes for delivering on the Towards a Mentally Flourishing agenda. While Midlothian has made considerable progress already, particularly on joint planning and delivery on the Mental Health Strategy, we need to ensure that this is carried through on the community planning agenda and with stakeholders in the community.</p>

Please add extra rows if needed.