



Seminar Report

June 2007

ELREC-CPP
(Community Planning Project)

We are all in this together



Seminar on -
*Promoting awareness on race equality in the
community planning process*

In collaboration with:

The City of Edinburgh council Midlothian council

East Lothian council West Lothian council

Supported by Scottish Executive

Mizanur Rahman, Events Co-ordinator, ELREC-CPP

Edinburgh & Lothian Racial Equality Council (ELREC)

What is Community Planning?

According to the Scottish Executive and Communities Scotland - '*Community Planning is about the structures, processes and behaviours necessary to ensure that organisations work together and with communities to improve the quality of people's lives, through more effective, joined up and appropriate delivery of services*'. It is, therefore, fundamentally about the process for improving services to local areas in a joined-up approach.

Community Planning is about organisations and communities working together to plan and deliver services which make a real difference to people's lives. At the heart of Community Planning is listening to and communicating with communities.

Statutory basis and policy options for the Community Planning

The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 (the Act) places a statutory duty on local authorities to initiate, maintain and facilitate a process (called "community planning") by which the public services provided in the area of the local authority are provided and the planning of that provision takes place after consultation and co-operation. Section 17 of the Act also requires that those bodies required to participate in community planning should assist the local authority in its role as facilitator. The Scotland Act identifies mainly two aims for community planning:

1. Community engagement – making sure people and communities are genuinely engaged in the decisions made on the public services which affect them.
2. Joint working – a commitment from organisations to work together in providing better public services (Scottish Executive: 2004).

The issue of racial equality essentially embedded into the CP by the Scotland Act 2003 accompanied by other wider UK reserved policy framework such as the Race Relations Act 2000 - building up just and sustainable community towards implementing the idea of sustainable development. To ensure effective engagement with communities in the community planning process certain key principles for statutory bodies adopted by Scottish Government. These are:

- Demonstrating genuine *commitment* to working with communities
- Leading to the *outcome oriented* community engagement
- Engaging at the *appropriate levels* where community best relate to
- Recognising vast *diversity* of community to engage, i.e. formal to informal
- Engaging with the most *independent* and accountable bodies for effective representation.
- *Learning lessons* from the past activities

Community Plans across the Edinburgh and Lothians

Publication dates of community plans and period covered:

<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Title of the community plan</i>	<i>Community plan published</i>	<i>Period covered by community plan</i>
East Lothian	Working together for a better East Lothian	June 2001	5-10 year
Edinburgh	A community planning for Edinburgh	Aug 2005	5 year
Mid Lothian	Midlothian Moving Forward	Aug 2002	18 year
West Lothian	Shaping the future	Dec 2000	10 year

Reference: Community planning: an initial review, June 2006 (Audit Scotland June 2006)

Aims and objectives of ELREC-CPP

ELREC-CPP was launched between February and June 2007 throughout the ELREC core working areas in four local authorities; City Council of Edinburgh, East Lothian Council, Mid Lothian Council and West Lothian Council. This project was funded by Scottish Executive and seminars were organised in collaboration with the relevant community planning partnerships (CPP) across Edinburgh and the Lothians.

Aims and objectives of ELREC-CPP were:

Better understanding on current status of equalities within the community planning Partnership and process across Edinburgh and Lothians.

- Raise awareness of the inequalities experienced by marginalised communities and the potential benefits to those communities and community planning partners for their engagement with community planning
- To strengthen relationships with local communities and partners to engage with CPP and the CEHR (Commission for Equality and Human Rights) ongoing process.

We therefore held seminars entitled “we are all in this together” across the four Councils during May 2007. The activities of the project aimed to collaborate with key community planning partners and gain knowledge about the engagement of BME communities within the community planning processes, and identify methods of making the processes more accessible to its users.

Seminar report:

Community Planning Seminar: We are all in this together

To raise awareness of race equality within the community planning process, four seminars were held across Edinburgh and the Lothians. A series of seminars were planned in collaboration with partners from the relevant CPP and local authorities. Venues for the seminars were selected, after discussion with prospective participants in each area, because they were easy to get to in terms of day, time and location. Accessibility for those who had special needs was also considered to encourage and enable them to participate effectively. A detailed programme of the seminars is attached in appendix A.

Target beneficiary

People from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) community that lived or worked within the four local authority areas were invited to the seminars in order to raise awareness and promote race equality in the community planning process. Key partners and organisations, who are involved in the community planning process as well as representatives from BME organisations and small groups were also invited to the seminars to share experiences and seek ways of improving their BME engagement.

Speakers & contributors

The programmes involved formal presentations, speeches, question & answer sessions and workshops. Most of the seminars were chaired and welcome given by ELREC's Board members, President or Vice Chair. Nina Giles, ELREC's Director, set the scene of the purpose of the project and highlighted the importance of advancing racial equality within community planning processes. Overview of community planning was delivered by senior officers of the relevant community planning units of each Council. The partners outlined their commitments and progress towards equality in community planning. They also welcome BME engagement in local community planning. Speakers also included Scottish Executive, Lothian & Borders Police, Youth Parliament, Community Health Partnerships, and Tenants Association. The seminars demonstrated, through the range of speakers, many ways of community engagement. At end of formal presentations, speeches and question & answer sessions, all attendees' and ELREC staff separated into small groups to participate in the workshops.

Workshops

There were nine workshops at the four seminars jointly facilitated by ELREC staff and colleagues from relevant CPP. Attendees from both service users (particularly BME) and various service providers (local authority, public agency and voluntary organisations) participated in the workshops. The workshops offered flexibility and one to one contact during the discussions. The key issues discussed were raised by the participants. The informal and open discussions helped BME people to be more confident in identifying barriers to their engagement in the community planning process as well as outlining their needs. Some generic questions set prior to discussion helped the BME people to start their discussions. Similar questions were asked in all workshops at the four seminars. The sample questions asked at the workshop were;

- How do you want to get involved with the Community Planning Process?
- How do communities become involved in the Community Planning Processes?
- What are the types of support that are needed to involve BME communities in active participation?
- What are the issues which may have impact on your daily life that could be helped by community planning?

Evaluation of the seminar:

At the workshops, all comments and remarks made by the participants were noted by the facilitators. Also evaluation forms were filled in at the end of each seminar.

Most of the attendees found the seminar valuable and informative and indicated that future awareness raising of the importance of community planning is required, especially with regard to how the need of the BME community can be met in term of education, race relations, job opportunities and health. Some of many comments were particularly for the future planning of community planning activities,

- *I guess such community planning activities would be of helpful for me after today's seminar but I have no clear idea about the process and system, how it will works, where I can go for it.*
- *I want to talk exclusively at my own pace and language within my locality to address all issues related to my daily life. Is there any place available?*
- *I am not clear about what the purpose of this planning activity, what benefit it will generate for me*
- *I am living in this area for past 8 years and this is my first experiences meeting with the council and police representative together in an event, for me it was a great opportunity to ask them about my problems*
- *Many key words 'regeneration' 'neighbourhoods' 'partnerships' 'CPP' etc used by many speakers but what do these words really mean?*
- *It was actually quite confusing as there was no real explanation about the CP process I felt that all the speakers used too many abbreviations without explaining what they stood for example, ASBOS?*
- *I have found very difficult to understand the translated materials supplied by the service provider even though the script was in my own language, all these information seem the same as English.*
- *We need copy of engagement strategy, community planning and equality policy in our own language prior to being involved with such activities*
- *Good to hear about council initiating modern way of communication; I never use computer or internet so how can I get benefit from these modern initiatives*
- *We could have had more time to inform local people – the groups need to try meet again*
- *I am not involved with any 'BME organisation' - where can I mention my own needs*

- *Many youth people spent out of school hour at the street corner, those groups are involved with vandalism and other anti social activities. Appropriate sport facilities could remove them from such activities.*
- *I found it very difficult to get appointment from GP being a retired pensioner I am not familiar with the new 'system'*
- *There are two CAB (Citizen Advise Bureau) in East Lothian – both are licensed by the Immigration commission for the provision of immigration /nationality advice. Interested in closer working (but both have very limited resources) with Ethnic Minority Community.*
- *Where is the place for becoming involvement of BME community within West Lothian Community Planning partnership?*
- *Required more time to be allocated in the workshops involved with BME community*

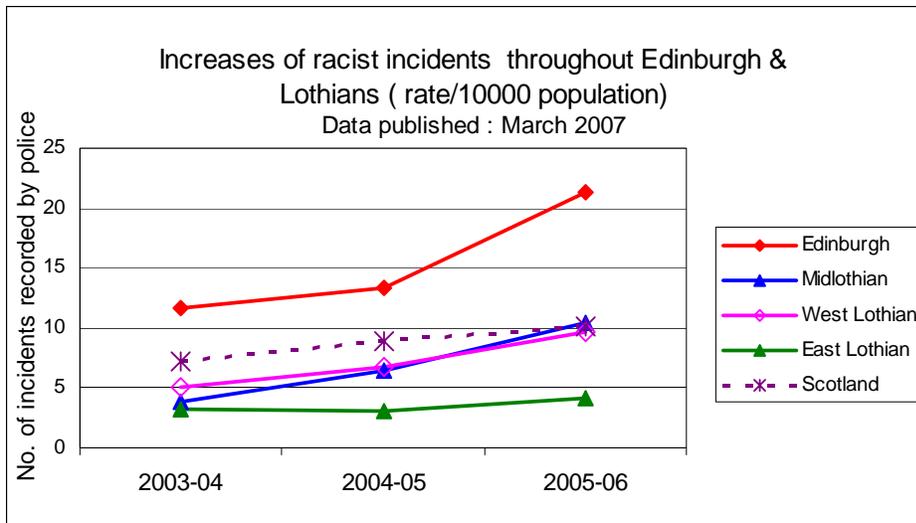
Issues from the BME community at the workshop:

Crime and racial discrimination:

Many of the participants experienced various forms of racial discrimination in their daily lives; especially those in BME businesses (e.g. grocers, news agents and resurants). These people face petty crime and racial abuse regularly. BME taxi drivers are often racially abused by their passengers. Some BME household members stated their misery because of their cars being vandalised and windows smashed.

The participants also expressed frustrations of the negative responses received from the employers despite their significant skills and qualifications. They felt BME people do not get mainstream jobs. On the other hand, BME youngsters are involved in minor crimes i.e. vandalism, house breaking, etc, in many areas of Edinburgh. There was a perception that rate of crime amongst BME school children was on the increase. Lack of appropriate facilities for sports and other activities cause young people to get involved in such anti-social activities.

Participants said the increase of race hate crime throughout Edinburgh is alarming and referred to the recent crime data published by the Scottish Executive.



Adult Education (BME Women)

Most of the BME families are headed by women because male members of the family spend long hours in their jobs so female members deal with most household tasks including taking children to school and looking after them. For this reason women should be targeted and measures should be put in place to include these groups within adult education awareness programmes. Parental involvement in school groups would help BME women to cope better.

Health aspects:

Elderly people raised concerns about the hassle to get treatment. They are not used to the new appointment system. It now takes longer to get GP appointments in many surgeries. Complexity in the NHS processes, changes in system and lack of interpreters in many surgeries make BME people panic and lose confidence. Inaccessibility of facilities is a barrier to maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Cost of local leisure facilities are not affordable by many BME people – this was highlighted by many participants. Living in poorer housing conditions and overcrowded housing lead to unhealthy living.

Communal facilities for BME communities:

There are not many communal facilities available for BME communities to perform their social and cultural celebrations. For example, BME people in Livingston found it difficult to find a venue compatible with Asian weddings and with cooking facilities and facilities for performing rituals.

Representation of BME community:

The most discussed topics in many workshops were representation of BME community in named and reliable BME organisations. It was not clear whether minority ethnic communities are represented by leaders, groups or organisations. Many asked that if they were not actively involved with any BME groups, where would they go? Some of the

participants wanted the Council to select independent representatives from minority ethnic groups or the BME community. These representatives should ensure well-being of designated ethnic groups or communities by liaising with the community and all the service providers.

Lack of BME infrastructure outwith Edinburgh :

Participants highlighted that in the Lothian council areas there is a lack of organisations working specifically for BME where they can access advocacy, information & language support. Some Edinburgh based BME organisations conduct activities in those areas occasionally. In Edinburgh there are plenty of groups/organisations working for BME but it is difficult to trace them or identify their activities. An updated active database of BME groups and organisations in Edinburgh is essential. The seminars conducted in four areas showed again that ELREC has maintained a good rapport and interaction with the BME community across the Lothians for many years.

[A case study: An Indian shopkeeper in East Lothian had a problem making an insurance claim because he did not speak English. In the meantime, a member of an Edinburgh-based BME organisation visited the shopkeeper a year ago to invite him to participate in their events. The member of the BME organisation assured the shopkeeper that he would provide support in making/processing the insurance claim on his behalf. After a year, the shopkeeper has not received any assistance/ contact from the BME organisation. The shopkeeper asked ELREC to trace the BME organisation in Edinburgh]

Lack of access to information and service

Like many other previous studies and reports the lack of information in appropriate formats was identified by most of the participants as a barrier to engagement and access to services. In particular, elderly people and women are most vulnerable in terms of poor language support. It was strongly recommended by the attendees at all four seminars that all information relating to community planning should be given to BME people in relevant languages. Participants in Midlothian found that translated material was as difficult to understand as English! Therefore any translated material should be piloted/tested prior to final distribution.

Means of communication:

A better way of communication with the BME community is a very complex problem. The most effective way is to approach leaders of the particular ethnic communities. Direct visit or spreading the message by mouth within community is important. Follow-up by phone is also important. The formal approach by letter, invitation and e-mails are less effective. In East Lothian seminar a female shop owner from the BME community said she was informed about the seminar by one of her white customers. The modern way of communication initiated by Edinburgh CPP was criticised by BME people because the participants do not have knowledge of computers and IT equipment.

Eastern European Communities

The issue of the recent increase of Eastern European people throughout Edinburgh and the Lothians was of concern to service providers and BME representatives at the seminars. Colleagues from Citizen Advice Bureau reported that their workload has increased due to the support required by the Eastern European groups such as benefits and working conditions. Prior to the seminars, communication was established with the Eastern European community in various ways to encourage their participation in the seminars. The main barrier was language and secondly, the community has not yet settled. Structure of the community is loose, they work in diverse employment. They move into many different places for work. It is hoped to include this group in the future programmes.

Recommendation in engagement of BME communities

For the future ELREC should play a major role on behalf of the BME community in the community planning process of the various Councils. This kind of partnership working was recommended at all seminars.

Midlothian Council

In Midlothian, participants recommended that it would be useful to set up a mini forum which included all BME living or working in this area. There was little evidence of engagement of BME communities within the Council's current consultation exercise. A few members of BME had received citizen panel survey questionnaires. Information regarding distribution of BME throughout Midlothian Council should be carried out prior to further programmes. Mini forum or any other forms of meeting should be based on opinion of the BME community living in the area. Peoples in Midlothian are looking forward to a CCP process that will help their well-being. BME community themselves could provide better input/feedback in the draft engagement strategy.

Edinburgh council

Engagement of BME community in each of the 12 neighbourhood partnerships is very important. Questions asked were: Who will be representing of BME? Where will be the location of the BME representative? Who in the Edinburgh Partnership will be represented in the 12 Neighbourhood Partnerships? The single point contact at the local level is excellent idea but it should ensure that BME people are able to get benefit from this mechanism.

West Lothian

Strengthening the 'West Lothian minority ethnic forum' is important because it will be strategically engaged with the West Lothian community planning partnership. This forum will spread across 9 locality planning partnerships.

East Lothian

The requirement from this seminar include: initiate actions based on previous findings from the previous studies; intensive consultation on developing/reviewing Community

Engagement strategies; and dissemination of previous study report in different community languages.

Acknowledgement:

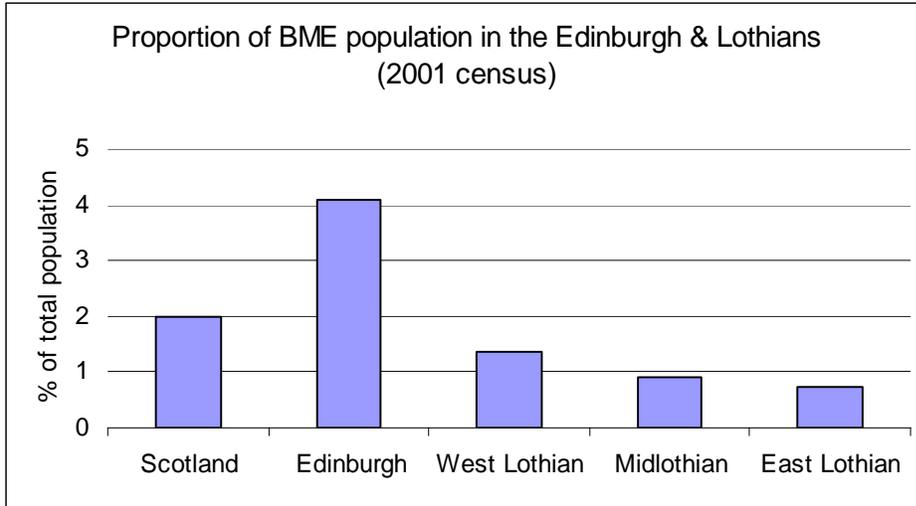
ELREC would like to thank the Scottish (Executive) Government for their financial support to this project. Special thanks and gratitude go to distinguished speakers & colleagues who gave up their time within short notice. We would also like to thank our community members who attended the seminars and gave us useful feedback and comments despite their busy working schedules. Special thanks and gratitude go to those distinguished speakers & colleagues from the Councils and Community Planning Partnerships.

Thanks to ELVON and EVOG who gave us contacts details and helped us publicise the seminars. I would like to thank ELREC's Hon President, Professor Geoff Palmer OBE, vice Chairman, Foysool Choudhury MBE and ELREC Board members who provided cordial support by attending the seminars. My heartfelt thanks goes to colleagues from Equality & Policy Units of all Councils who collaborated in the organization of the events, especially, Norma Cuthbertson & Allan Howie of Edinburgh Council; Rebecca Spillane of East Lothian Council; Jess Collins & Clytie Robinson of Midlothian Council; Susan McKillop of West Lothian Council. Lastly, I would like to thank my ELREC colleagues who provided useful suggestions and direct support especially ELREC's Director Nina Giles, Shasta Hanif, Shazana Hussain, Robert Murray, Melissa Elliott and others.

APPENDIX A: Brief Schedule and Program of the ELREC-CPP seminars:

	East Lothian	West Lothian	Midlothian	Edinburgh
Date	23 May 2007	17 May, 2007	10 May, 2007	14 May, 2007
Venue	Brunton Hall, Musselburgh, East Lothian	West Lothian College , Livingston, West Lothian	Dalkeith Arts Centre, Dalkeith, Midlothian	COSLA Conference Centre, Haymarket, Edinburgh
Workshop	2	2	2	3
Total attendees	34	27	31	49
Welcome	Alex McCrorie, Chief Executive, East Lothian Council	Emma Crashaw, ELREC Board member	Prof Geoff Palmer, Hon President, ELREC	Foysol Choudhury, Vice Chair, ELREC
Chair	Foysol Choudhury, Vice Chair, ELREC	Foysol Choudhury, Vice Chair, ELREC	Foysol choudhury, Vice Chair, ELREC	Prof Geoff palmer, Honorary President, ELREC
Introduction	Nina Giles, Director, ELREC	Nina Giles, Director, ELREC	Nina Giles, Director, ELREC	Nina Giles, Director, ELREC
Speakers				
Lothian & Boarder Police	Gordon Martin, Superintendent	Derek Fairley, Inspector, Local Authority Police Liaison Officer	Michellie Ritchie, Sergeant, Safer Communities	Robert Phillip, Inspector, Local Authority Police Liaison Officer
Local Authority	Veronica Campanile, Community Planning Development Officer	Susan McKillop, Community Planning Development Officer Kenny Selbie, Equality Officer, West Lothian Council	Sally Reid, Business Performance Manager, Midlothian Council	Norma Cutbertson Manager, Community Planning Partnership Allan Howie, Manager, Neighbourhood Partnership
CPP's & others	Catherine Mc Arthur East Lothian Tenants and Residents Panel	Helen Yewdall, Public Health Practitioner, CHP, NHS West Lothian	Rajiv Joshi, Chair Scottish Youth Council	Jane Broadrick, Community Planning Team Scottish Executive
Collaboration With Council's dept.	Rebecca Spillane, Equality Officer	Community Planning Development Team Policy & Performance Unit	Business and Performance Team Jess Collins & Clytie Robinson	Community Planning Partnership Team Norma and Allan

APPENDIX B



APPENDIX C

Attendees to the Seminar

Area location: East Lothian

Title (if given)	First Name	Second Name	Organisation (if applicable)
Miss	Sandra	Hawes	Business Gateway
Mr	Jalal	Chaudry	
Mr	Pindi	Singh	
	Mary	Macleod	Children First
Mr	Sukhdevga r		MILAN
Mr	Anhar	Uddin (Minar)	Haddington
Mr	Abdul	Korim	Tranent
Mr	Muhit	Miah	Haddington
	Ann	Hastie	Haddington CAB
Mr	James	Bruce	ELVON
Mr	Mohd	Amin	Musselburgh
	Katy	Lamb	Headway East Lothian
	Maggie	Morrison	Portobello
	Ian	Law	East Lothian Public Partnership Forum
Mr	Somor	Uddin (Ali)	Haddington
	Shelly	Hutton	Castle Rock Edinvar Housing Association
	Linden	Ross	Homestart
	Chris	Lewis	Children First
Mr	Shaz	Chowdhury	Haddington
	Ian	Huggan	Crossroads
	Ken	Morrice	Tynepark
Mr	Amjad	Ali	Haddington Resident
	Jenny	Halpin	East Lothian Women's Aid
Mr	Khaled	Chowdhury	Musselburgh
	Doug	Forsyth	Chief Inspector, Head of Diversity, Lothian and Borders police
	Alex	Mc Crorie	Chief Executve, East Lothian Council
	Rebecca	Spillane	Equality Officer , East Lothian Council
	Veronica	Campanile	Community Planning Officer, East Lothian Council
	Matrin	Gordon	Lothian & Borders Police
	Catherine	Mc Arthur	Chair, East Lothian Tenants and Residents Panel
	Foysol	Choudhury	ELREC
	Nina	Giles	ELREC
	Shazana	Hussain	ELREC
	Robert		ELREC
	Tasneem	Ahmed	ELREC
	Mizanur	Rahman	ELREC
	Biliguar	Singh	
	Atualf	Latif	
	Pyira	Latif	
	Shabir	Khan	

Area Location: Edinburgh

Title (if given)	First Name	Surname	Organisation (if applicable)
	Jonathan	Stanners	City of Edinburgh Council
	Isobel	Heart	Sikh Sanjog
	Carolanne	Valley	Sikh Sanjog
	Jan	Roberts	Citizen'a Advice bureau
	Nayyer	Sheikh	
	Chris	Wigglesworth	Tollcross Community Council
	Ann	Wigglesworth	Tollcross Community Council
	Mohammed	Liton	Edinburghs Residents
	Tracy	Millar	Hate Crime Policy Officer, CEC
Syed	Tarek	Hassan	Edinburgh Residents
Dr	Mohd	Talukdar (Pavel)	The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh
	Hazel	Anderson	Asian concern
	Mr	Tariq	
	Noreen	Razvia	House Wife
	Anjam	Sheikh	
	Fatima	Mahmood	Student
	Ines	Eunga	Afirca
	Shridevi	Bellad	
	Hassan	Bukhari	
Dr	Abdul	Kadir	BME Doctor
Mr	Shah Noor	Chaudhry	ELREC
Prof	Geoff	Palmer	ELREC
	<i>Gavin</i>	<i>Philip</i>	Lothian & Borders Police
	<i>Allan</i>	<i>howie</i>	Edinburgh City Council
	<i>Jane</i>	<i>Broderick</i>	Scottish Executive
	<i>Foyzol</i>	<i>Choudhury</i>	Edinburgh City Council
	Norma	Cuthbertson	
Mr	Syed Kamal	Ahmed	Edinburgh Resident (Leith)
Dr	Wali Tasar	Uddin	Edinburgh Resident
Mr	Abdul Aziz	Belal	Drumbrae
Mr	Labas	Miah	Surma Community Assoc
Mr	Abdul	Malik	Shahjalal Mosque
Mr	Mahmud Raza	Khan	Catering association
Mr	Golam Anis	Anis Chy	Edinburgh Resident
Mr	Matin	Khan	Tollcross
Mr	Mohammed M. A.	Rashid	Edinburgh's Resident(Muirhouse)
Mr	Mahfuzur	Rahman	Dalry-Gorgie
Mr	M.H	Zaman	
Mr	Sibbir	Ahmed	Stenhouse (Student)
M	Mohseen	Ali	Tollcross

Area Location: Midlothian

Title (if given)	First Name	Surname	Organisation (if applicable)
	George	Mckenzie	Midlothian Council
	Fiona	Maher	Education & Communities
	Nancy	Both	
Mr	Zahida	Sheikh	Bonnirigg
Mr	Bodrul	Haque	Bonnirigg
	Izazur	Rahman	Bonnirigg
	Ruhul	Amin	Bonnirigg
	Margaret	Nisbet	Midlothian voluntary Action
	Mohd	Asghar	
	Clare	Halliday	Neighbourhood Co-ordinator
	Mosnu	Miah	Bonnirigg
	Tracy	Hill	Housing Information and Advice officer
Mr	Ashan	Singh	Sikh Sanjog
	Jason	Lumb	Mypass
	Rico	Nombro	
	Trishna	Singh	Sikh Sanjog
Mr	Rae	Beatson	
	Khald	Chaudhary	
	Sorof	Uddin	Borbridge
Mr	Emdadul	Haque	Gorbridge
	Mohammad	Brahimi	Dalkeith
	Lewis	Richard	Link living
	Linzi	Christainson	Link living
	Ian	MacDonald	UNISON
	Jill	Gawish	Children First
	Sorwar	Hussain (Kabir)	Penicuick

Area Location: West Lothian

Title (if given)	First Name	Second Name	Organisation (if applicable)
Mr	Irfan	Arif	
Mr	Ajmol	Tareque	Post Office
	Diane	Loughlin	NHS Lothian
	Kerstin	Devling	Planning aid for Scotland
	Dorothy	Scott	Craigshill Good Neighborhood Network
	Aziz-Ur	Rahman	Businessman
	Richmond	Davis	wlmcf
	Mohammed	Afzal	Business man
	Mohammad Akbal	Ali	
	Mohammad	Hanif	
	Fozia	Yaseen	
	Mahmood	Ali	
	Annes		
	Zubair	Ahmed	
	Mohammad	Rafique	
	Sahid	Ali	
	Mohammad	Zubair	
	Munir Ahmod	Khan	
	Rashid	Ahmed	
	Fiaz	Sahib	
	Abdul	Haq	
	Abdul	Gafur	
Mr	Foysol	Choudhury	ELREC - Board Member
	Emma	Crawshaw	ELREC - Board Member
	Susan	McKillop	Community Planning Development Officer, West Lothian Council
	Kenny	Selbie	Equality officer, West Lothian council
	Derek	Fairley	Lothians and Boarder Police
	Helen	Yewdall	Community Health & Care Partnership
	Mohd	Azam	
	Akbar	Ali	
	Emma	Fitzpatrick	Minority population worker for West Lothian