FOYSOL CHOUDHURY MSP
MEMBER OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT FOR LOTHIAN REGION

February 2025

SOCIAL CARE

BULLETIN

> *Social care is essential care. We cannot continue allowing the SNP to fail our constituents*

SCOTLAND'S SOCIAL CARE CRISIS

Social care and health services continue to fail under the SNP's leadership, with NHS waiting times increasing each week, councils cutting care packages due to insufficient funding, and significant concerns from national groups regarding care, particularly in the Lothian region.





24%

OF CASEWORK CASES OPENED SO FAR THIS MONTH PERTAIN TO SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SERVICES

LOTHIAN IS GRAPPLING WITH CHALLENGES DUE TO FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS

Edinburgh Council	Service Reductions
Midlothian Council	Projected Budget Gap
West Lothian Council	Overspend & service impact

CONSTITUENTS CALLING FOR CARE

Constituents across not only Scotland, but the Lothian region are calling out for better care.

I have been in contact with several constituents who have had their social care packages cut.

These constituents are struggling in their day to day lives and need support.

LISTEN TO THEIR STORY

CUTS TO THIRD-SECTOR FUNDING

The Edinburgh Integration Joint Board (EIJB), responsible for commissioning care in the city, has approved measures to address a £60 million budget deficit. Plans include the permanent closure of two care homes, Clovenstone and Ford's Road.

Additionally, third-sector organizations, such as those offering day care for adults, will experience a 10% funding reduction.

DELAYED DISCHARGE?

Delayed discharge, remains a pressing issue in the Lothian region, where patients who are medically fit for discharge remain in hospital due to delays in social care arrangements. This challenge places significant strain on hospital capacity, limiting the availability of beds for incoming patients.





A visit to St. John's Hospital, Livingston, highlighted the ongoing efforts to address this issue, with staff working tirelessly to streamline discharge processes and coordinate with community care providers.

Despite these efforts, factors such as high demand for care services and staffing shortages continue to hinder progress.

"It feels like we don't exist

LOCAL AUTHORITIES ARE STRUGGLING

"19% of council funding is generated through Council Tax
1% is generated via fees and charges
80% of council funding comes from the Scottish Government


West Lothian Council
November 5, 2024 ·
Financial crisis for councils is unprecedented
An update from the council's Head of Financ
councils is of a magnitude never experience
ssues. The update was presented to Council
The overspend explained 👇
The vast majority of the overspend has been
or key services - mainly within Social Policy

POOR CARDIAC CARE

Data from Public Health Scotland indicates that as of September 2024, **over 24,000 individuals were awaiting** cardiology outpatient appointments—a **252% increase** since 2019.

In NHS Lothian, the number of patients waiting for such appointments rose from **923 in 2020** to **3,104 in 2023.**

The British Heart Foundation, with whom I recently met has criticised the lack of investment in cardiac services, emphasising that delayed treatment can lead to worsened patient outcomes and increased costs for the NHS.

There is a clear need for strong political leadership to improve heart disease prevention and treatment.

We are seeing longer waits for patients and less resources from Government"

LET'S CONTINUE WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER SCOTLAND.

FOYSOL CHOUDHURY MSP

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