



October 2024



Dear everyone we support and carers,

I hope you are enjoying work and life and like our Annual Review theme, your wheel of life is positive in most areas. Despite the weather! As we start to move into winter- did we actually have a summer- please remember that the Falkirk Hub, the Duke Street Hub, and the Prentice centre – have activities going on, as well as a warm place to meet people, have a cup of tea and feel connected. Please check the **Community Pack** to see some of the activities going on.



Cost of Living help:

A Reminder again as we move into the cold weather that we have put a little money aside for a Hardship fund for anyone who is really struggling financially:

TAG Hardship/Crisis Fund [Application Form](#):

TAG Evolve:



TAG EVOLVE changes happened 3 months ago now. This project will be reviewed in November so we can see what has gone well and can be celebrated and what needs more attention and improvement. Thanks to everyone who has passed on their comments- both positive and negative – to me and other managers. We have been in listening mode and in the background, we are acting on the constructive feedback we have been given. However, the evaluation will give everyone a chance to feedback their experience, via a survey and focus groups.

It is important that as many people as possible take part, so we hear from everyone on whether we have achieved the projects aims or if there is more, we need to do in some areas. The outcome of the evaluation will be shared so you can see the results and hear about any next steps.

I know the changes have been significant and that they have caused some people to be upset- this was not our intention, and I am sorry for when this has happened. The changes were necessary to make sure our services, teams and leadership were improved, as there had been concerns for many years about rotas, communication, reviews, keyworkers, team meetings and staff support etc. No matter what we had done, this did not improve overall, so we needed to rethink our plans. TAG EVOLVE came out of this thinking and was based on all the feedback we had received from so many people we supported, staff and Carers. It has been 3 months since the changes happened in June, and it is still early days. The changes need time to settle in and I am hopeful that by the end of the year, when we evaluate, we will be able to see what has worked well and what else needs to happen.

Click here to read the [TAG Evolve – September Update \(Easy Read\)](#):

New Services (Saltire Project) East Lothian new services:



The Action Group needs to grow every year by supporting new people, as without growth and the extra income this brings in, we cannot afford to invest in our Digital and recruitment work, offer additional services (Prentice Centre activities; respite weekend and Advice posts etc), give some money for Cost-of-Living grants and meet the increased costs of our suppliers (Insurance increases; staff Disclosure increases etc). Without growth our budget would be even more challenging, as we get no extra funding from the SGovt for anything apart from the increased pay for front line support staff, to pay the Living Wage. Plus, we also want to support more people as part of our Mission, especially in these difficult times when supported people, and families have less money and less service provision.

TAG Saltire is part of our growth plans and to increase the numbers of people we support this year, and I want to extend a welcome to all the new supported people in east Lothian- who came across to us from another provider. Like TAG Evolve it is early days- but you are very welcome, and I hope you enjoy being part of The Action Group and I look forward to meeting you as the year goes on.

This project has been a success so far, but we know that there is still more we need to do to make you feel supported and involved, as well as recruiting more new staff to fill the vacancies in your teams.

AGM (Annual General Meeting) and TAG Conference:



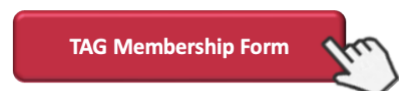
Click the blue button to get your AGM Tickets!



I hope as many of you as possible have your ticket for the AGM and Conference on the 26th of October, at Edinburgh Zoo. This is a great opportunity to hear more about some of TAGs' services, have fun and connect in real time- plus meet some animals! Plus, you can hear how we are doing as an organisation at the AGM Meeting.



If you want to become a member of TAG, please click the red button, and complete the info and you will be able to vote at the AGM. [Membership form](#)



Stay connected and involved:



Another reminder to everyone, to join our TAG facebook pages, to help you stay connected and see what else is happening in TAG. Contact **Johanna** at Communications@actiongroup.org.uk

I hope you have a great October, and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the conference on the 26th.

Best wishes and Thank You for being part of The Action Group.

If you wish to contact me, please do so via <https://forms.office.com/r/JxEZaqwNX3> or email or team's chat or email.

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