

Background information on the Health Agency

We have been working in South West Edinburgh since 1989.

The Health Agency is a community led organisation and a registered charity. We address local health inequalities by working to improve the life circumstances that cause poor health in the community. We try to reduce the severity of health and social consequences of inequalities, help individuals and communities resist the effects of inequality on health and wellbeing and encourage collective action that will strengthen local democracy in Wester Hailes.

Our approach depends upon gaining a good understanding and comprehensive knowledge of local people's experiences, perspectives and expectations. The methods we use seek to build a sense of value into peoples' lives so that good health becomes achievable. Our co-production and community development approach provides a route for service users to become active participants in their care and their community, and not just passive recipients of services.

Our Vision is: to make a more equal society for all.

Our Purpose is: to seek to enable local people to take action that makes a positive impact on their own and their community's physical, mental and emotional well-being.

In pursuit of this purpose, the agency will be guided by three operating principles:

A Holistic Approach

The Agency recognises that real health improvement can best be achieved through a holistic approach. This acknowledges that individual well-being depends on physical, emotional, social and environmental factors.

Community development

The Agency uses this approach that is consistent with the principles of community development in terms of empowering people, both individually and collectively, to identify and address the issues that confront their lives. We promote learning, knowledge, skills, confidence and the ability to act collectively. We work towards change through increased local democracy, participation and involvement in public affairs. This in turn strengthens organisations, networking and leadership between communities.

Working in Partnership

The Agency acknowledges the importance of working collaboratively with both voluntary and statutory services to ensure that awareness of health issues and psycho/social issues are integral to their activities.

Volunteering

We aim to work towards lifting people out of poverty and setting them on a positive course by offering a variety of volunteering opportunities such as administrator/receptionists, counsellors, complimentary therapists, gardeners who will have the opportunity to learn to build fences and sheds. They are very much seen as part of the Health Agency team.

Since moving into the healthy Living Centre in August 2013 we have gone from strength to strength. Co-location has allowed proper integration of services, working closely with the GP practice and children and Families has especially encouraged meaningful partnership work that benefits the local community. See What's On Guide

Local people are always at the heart of all our work.

