



Annual Report 2017-18



2017-18 was a busy and exciting time for the EDG team.

Happily the year started on a high. After many months of planning we were successful in being awarded a large grant from The Big Lottery. 'Our Future in Our Hands' project is an exciting development which aims to bring people together to explore and set up self-managing care cooperatives.

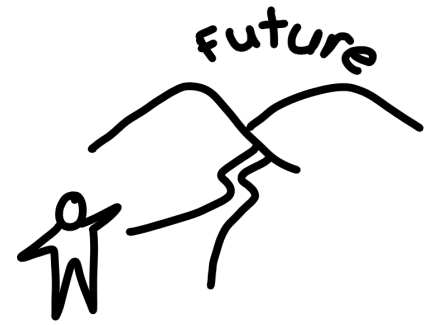


Maureen and Linda facilitating a cooperative group session



LOTTERY FUNDED

Our target is to achieve 5 care cooperatives by 2020. The cooperatives will be : young people in transitions, a local neighbourhood cooperative, disabled women's cooperative, older persons cooperative and our original pilot, Encompass cooperative. This is a new concept for Scotland and EDG is at the cutting edge of this development. Our model reflects the Self-Directed Support Scotland Act 2016 which was ground breaking legislation with a strong emphasis on self-management where disabled people are in control. You can find out more about 'Our Future in Our Hands' at www.edgcarecooperatives.org



Each family have a completed assessment for their young person

Creatively Cooperative continues the theme of care cooperatives. This is a project specifically for young people in transitions. Families tell us that they feel isolated as their young people prepare to leave school. This project funded by the Scottish Government Fund CYPFEIF & ALEC is helping people to describe their young people's needs in preparation for adult life. In this first year EDG supported 8 families, each now have a comprehensive assessment produced with their own understanding of the very specific needs of their young people. This will be a useful tool as they negotiate for their young people's needs beyond school and into adulthood. In year 2 we will work with new families to support them with their future planning.

This year was the final year of working with Alexander Warren from AJP Dreams researching empathy in support work. The project, funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, enabled Alexander alongside EDG to develop a training course for support workers which encourages them to bring empathy into their practice. Alexander and EDG will launch the 'Empathy in Support Work' training course later in 2018 alongside a website highlighting what they have learned during the 3 years research.



Alexander in the EDG office.



Andrew meeting up with MSP Alex Cole-Hamilton.



Hot of the Press! New Homeshare leaflets.

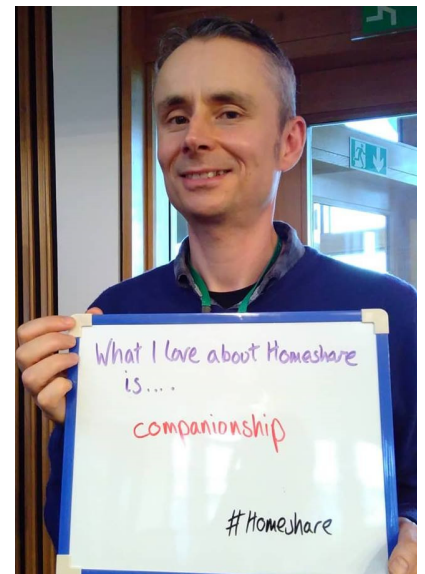
EDG Homeshare entered it's final year of funding from the English Big Lottery. This scheme was set up as a pilot to match people with a learning disability who have a spare room and who are looking for companionship and a little extra help around the home, with students or people looking for affordable accommodation. In this year we welcomed a new member to the Homeshare team, Andrew Millar, on a one year contract. The team worked hard marketing the scheme, locally in Edinburgh, including advertising on buses, but also through social media and online. Unfortunately even though we have had over 80 enquiries we are still to make our first match. It has proven difficult to find people with a learning disability who have a spare room and want someone to share with them. We will be holding a large event in 2018 at the Scottish Parliament to work with local politicians and organisations and continue spreading the word.



Peter Sabine checking out the ad featuring himself on Lothian Buses.



Hels and Gillian spreading the word.



Steve sharing his thoughts

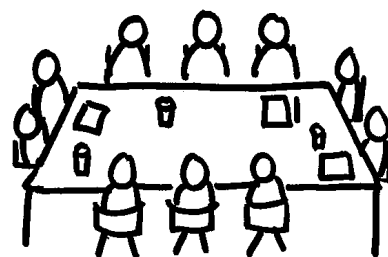


The Sign Up group meeting

NHS Lothian awarded EDG a tender to set up a social enterprise called 'Sign Up'. The aim was to offer paid employment, work experience and training to people who face barriers to employment. The social enterprise was offering expertise in making information into simple and plain language for public bodies including the NHS and private companies.



We were grateful to City of Edinburgh Council who extended our grant for a further year. This enables EDG to offer support and advice to older families in Edinburgh, with our aim to work with 30 families on a 1:1 basis. This year we worked with 92 families - with 43 being offered more intense support and of those, 22 were younger parents (over 50) with teenage children. This is an important trend for EDG which ensures we are supporting families at the very important time of transition from childhood to adulthood.



EDG continues to be part of the Edinburgh Plan Advisory Group. This group meets regularly and enables people to have a say about the City of Edinburgh Council strategic plan for people with learning disabilities and carers.



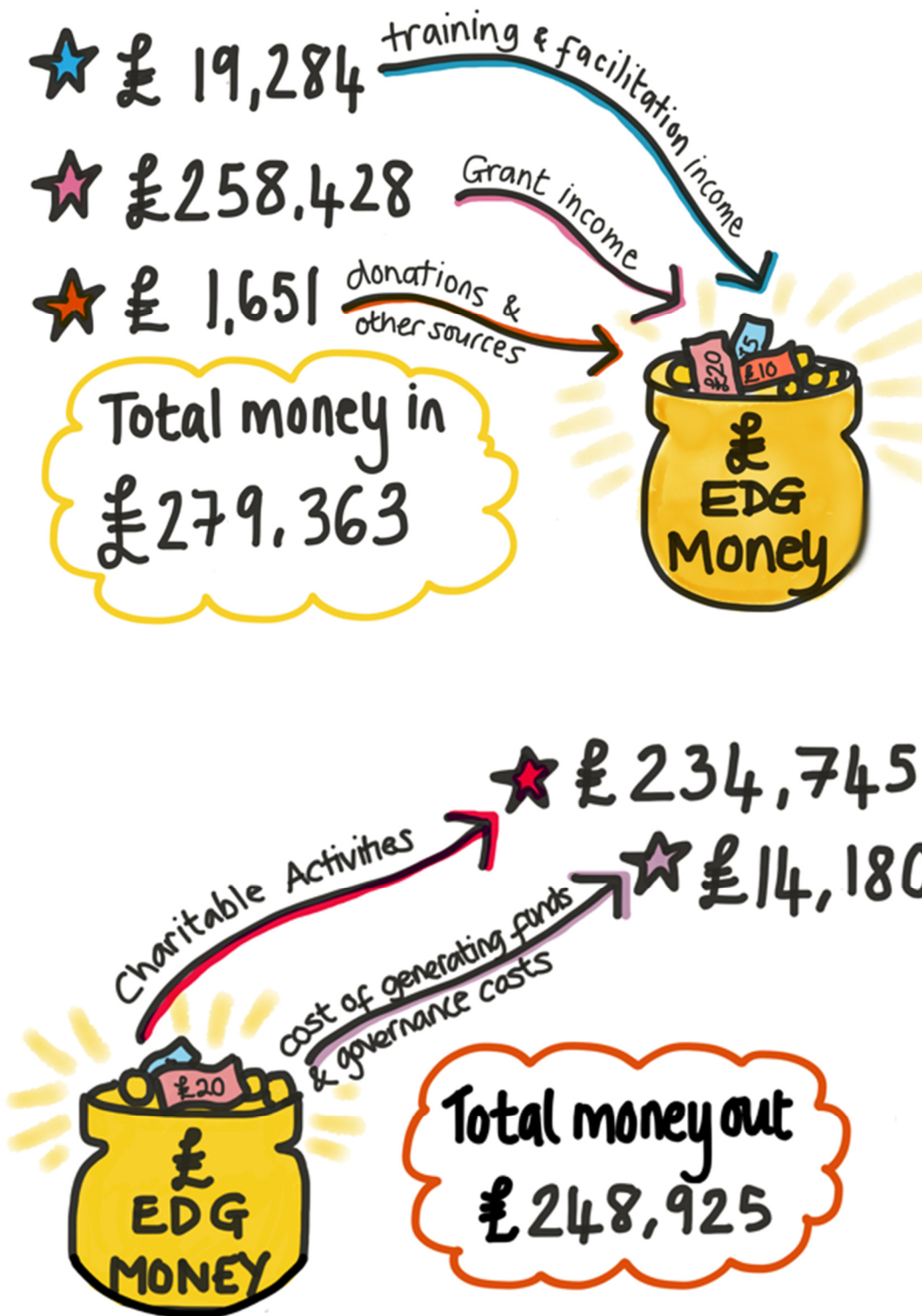
EDG Carers Group enjoying an outing at a local Garden centre.

The Older Carers Group continues to meet every 3rd Monday morning at Juniper Green. This group offers peer support, information sharing and social time.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Shulah Allan who stepped down from the board of directors in this year. Shulah had been on the board for many years and was our chair for more than 5 years. She was hard working and dedicated to supporting the EDG team and our work and we are very grateful for her time with us. Thank you Shulah!



EDG money 2017-18



This report should be read in conjunction with the annual audited accounts. A full set of accounts are available on request from EDG. The accounts are audited by Henderson Loggie, Chartered Accountants, 34 Melville Street, Edinburgh EH3 7HA



EDG Board

Sandy Divine - Chairperson

Sarah Van Putten - Vice Chair

Rosie Barclay

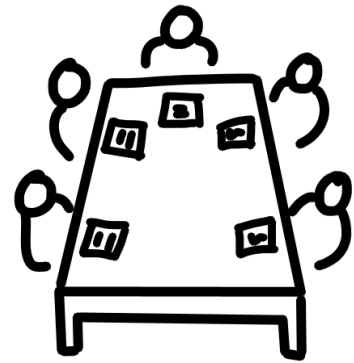
Tom Frank

Kenny Steadwood

Callum McLennan

Jo Kirby

Stella Reid (resigned 11/12/17)



EDG Team

Maureen Martin (Chief Executive)

Helen Wright (Development Coordinator)

Gillian Allan (Development Coordinator)

Linda Keys (Development Coordinator)

Janice Hope (Finance Administrator)

Stephen Mathieson (Admin Worker)

Frances MacDonald (Office Assistant)

Andrew Miller (Development Coordinator)

Joyce Gunn (sessional worker)

Vivien Stuart (sessional worker)

Claire Edwards (consultant/project manager cooperatives)

Lindsay Graham (consultant)

