

Gordon Macdonald MSP

May 2025 Newsletter



Edinburgh Pentlands Groups Awarded £2.2m in 2024/25



In April Gordon took time to visit The National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF) stall at the Parliament. Over the last five years TNLCF has supported 131 community projects in Edinburgh Pentlands constituency, with grants to the value of £4,625,338. Last year they awarded £68.9 million pounds of life-changing funding across Scotland to nearly 2,238 projects, turning their great ideas into reality.

A total of £2,248,578 is currently invested in constituency projects, with grants ranging from £2,500 to £191,800. Project activities include improving health outcomes, tackling loneliness, providing activities at local hubs for specific groups such as young people.

Gordon has already seen the benefit of the TNLCF awards to projects in the constituency first-hand: he led a members debate in 2022 to mark 20 years of the BIG Project who received funding to run youth groups in Broomhouse. The Community One Stop Shop

was set up in 2002 to tackle poverty and Gordon is pleased to see it continuing to build on its good work following the award of two grants for development and advice work as well as a new van.

Based in Oxfgangs, Best Bib N Tucker received a grant to tackle isolation, with The Dove Centre able to do similar work with the grant received to fund an additional driver for their community transport initiative. Gordon also attended the strategy launch a few weeks ago for The Sorted Project, who received a substantial grant to tackle substance use and mental health problems, inventively from a safe space developed on a canal boat.

If you wish to find out more about The National Lottery Community Fund Scotland please email Cath Logan at cath.logan@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk. You can also get in touch with funding teams on **0300 123 7110** or email advicescotland@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk to discuss project ideas.

Visit To Lost Shore Surf Resort



restaurant, surf schools and wellness treatments.

Lost Shore Surf Resort has created a world class leisure facility by redeveloping the disused Craigpark Quarry, where the iconic Edinburgh cobbles were extracted and sent into the city in barges via the Union Canal.

The change to a country park and Wavegarden has created substantial natural capital value, with much of the site now accessible spaces for the public to enjoy with free access for all from surfers to dog walkers. The first planting season saw 0.75 hectares of woodland planted with 223 new trees across the site and the Lost Shore team continue to search for new opportunities to develop the natural capital of the site.

Balerno Farmers Market at 20

Marking the 20th anniversary of Balerno Farmers Market Gordon took the opportunity to highlight and recognise the impact and success of the market over the last 20 years with a parliamentary motion.



Set up in 2005 by the Balerno Conservation and Development Forum, the success of the market is due to the commitment of the team of community volunteers who oversee the setting-up and stewarding of the market and special events.

The Farmers Market was first set up to revitalise the Main Street in Balerno but has now become a valued community meeting place, attracting between 800-1,500 people each month. You can read Gordon's motion here <https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-17225>.



Support For Priority Groups To Buy A Home

Good news for those looking to get on the housing ladder with a scheme to help people in priority groups buy a home on the open market reopening for applications.

The Open Market Shared Equity Scheme will be available to people across Scotland who can't afford the full price of a home from groups which include social renters, disabled people, people aged 60 and over, members of the armed forces and veterans.

Applicants can apply for between 60% and 90% of the property's value without having to purchase it in full, with the Scottish Government owning the remaining share.

Commenting on the reopening of the scheme Gordon said:

"The cost of living crisis, high energy prices, inflation and interest rates make it increasingly difficult for some people to buy their own home.

"This scheme will give people in the priority groups the same opportunity as other buyers to own their home and I would encourage anyone looking to buy a home to apply to the scheme.

"Giving more people the chance to buy an affordable home also plays a crucial role in reducing homelessness and eradicating child poverty in Scotland."



Change To Earnings Limit For Carers

Gordon has welcomed a key change in eligibility rules for unpaid carer across Scotland which could see them benefit from financial support.

The earnings limit for Carer Support Payment will increase from £151 to £196 a week from 6th April. This means that a carer can earn £45 more a week, after tax, National Insurance and certain expenses, and be eligible for the payment.

The change could mean carers already receiving Carer Support Payment will be able to undertake more paid work and still receive the payment. In addition, many carers earning a take home pay of £10,192 or less a year, who were previously unable to access the additional support could now be eligible.

To receive Carer Support Payment of £83.30 a week, carers also need to be providing 35 hours or more of care a week to someone who receives a qualifying disability benefit. More information about Carer Support Payment is available at www.mygov.scot/carers-support-payment.



Carer Support Payment
Financial support for unpaid carers



Scottish Fire And Rescue Launch Lithium-ion Battery Campaign



The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) have undertaken a public safety awareness campaign to help prevent fires caused by lithium batteries.

In December last year the SFRS released statistics which show that there were at least 26 fires involving devices powered by rechargeable batteries recorded in Scotland last year. This compares to just three incidents in 2018.

Gordon is encouraging everyone to follow the SFRS advice to buy devices from reputable retailers and only use approved chargers; safe charging means keeping exit routes clear, never storing or charging batteries in hallways and bedrooms, never charge when you are asleep, never dispose of batteries at home and recycle safely with guidance from the council on local sites for disposal.



Gordon recently took up the kind invitation to visit Project Linus, based in the Pentland Community Centre, to meet the volunteers who provide handmade quilts for children and young people who are ill, disabled or living with trauma.

Quilts are distributed through several voluntary organisations including Harmeny School, Barnardos, the Edinburgh Clothing Store and the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People in Edinburgh and has been providing 500-800 quilts a year for babies to young adults for over 20 years.

Project Linus are on the lookout for volunteer quilt makers. If you're able to get involved and would like to learn more please contact Alison Dunlop, Chair of the Edinburgh Linus Group, by email at alisonjdunlop@yahoo.co.uk.

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Gordon holds open weekly surgeries for constituents every Friday at 10am.

The locations for these can be found at: <https://www.gordonmacdonaldmsp.info/surgery>

