

Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 - Participation Requests and Asset Transfer Requests

Annual Report 2017/18

[The Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#) has been established to enhance community involvement in community planning by creating new opportunities for influencing public service provision and decision making, including how community assets are owned and managed. The Act introduces new rights to community bodies to make participation requests and asset transfer requests to health boards and other public service authorities.

[An easy read summary of the Act](#) can be found on the Scottish Government Website. The Act covers 11 different topics and the short guide takes you through these. If you want to know more, you can read further on the [community empowerment](#) section of the website - <https://beta.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/>.

Sections 32 and 95 of the Act require that we produce an annual report which is to include certain information on participation requests and asset transfer requests.

Activity in 2017/18

During 2017/18 Lothian NHS Board received one participation request and no asset transfer requests.

On the 20 June 2017 [Midlothian Council](#) and Lothian NHS Board received a Participation Request (Council being named as lead) from Gorebridge Community Cares. The basis of the request was that “we want our group and the community of Gorebridge to be included in early discussions about the siting of a new High School for Gorebridge”. Both parties approved the request.

An initial meeting between representatives from Lothian NHS Board, Midlothian Council, and Gorebridge Community Cares took place to agree the outcome improvement process. It was agreed that Lothian NHS Board would step back from the outcome improvement process because there are no current plans for new primary care provision in Gorebridge. However, at the meeting it was made clear that we would be happy to re-engage in the request when the plans for the new high school developed further.

Lothian NHS Board has published information on its website about participation requests and asset transfer requests, and this includes details on who to approach for help. You can find the information at the links below:

<https://www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk/YourRights/CommunityEmpowerment/Pages/default.aspx>