

Five things you need to know today



Governance Risk and Best Value Committee – Domestic abuse seminar, Edinburgh – The Friends of Water of Leith Basin – House @42 – Today at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery

The council's Governance, Risk and Best Value committee meets this morning at the City Chambers at 10. All papers are online [here](#) and deal with the slightly boring but important matters of the council's anticipated borrowing and capital position over coming years, and what the council will do to manage it.

The committee last met at the beginning of March when they agreed to pay £10,000 to the charity SANDS. This was recompense for the extra work it has had to undertake in supporting bereaved parents in Edinburgh affected by the confusion over disposal of babies' ashes at Mortonhall Crematorium.

If you can't make it along today then the committee's meeting on 15 August will be webcast on the council website and you will be able to follow the proceedings live.

A multi-agency seminar aimed at tackling domestic abuse in the west of Edinburgh is taking place today.

The south west neighbourhood Domestic Abuse Seminar, which is being held at the Woods Centre in Wester Hailes, will bring together professionals from a range of agencies, including Police Scotland, City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian, and Scottish Women's Aid.

A series of workshops will take place at the event, all with the theme of keeping women and children safe.

Keynote speakers include Heather Coady, Scottish Women's Aid National Children's Policy Manager, who will speak about how abuse impacts upon children and how best services respond to families affected.

In addition, a Police Scotland officer from the newly formed Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit in Edinburgh will provide delegates with an update on the role of the new unit.

Inspector Stephen Dolan, from Police Scotland, said: "Police Scotland is committed to keeping people safe, and today's seminar demonstrates our commitment to working with local partners in the west of Edinburgh to enhance our approach to domestic abuse.

"The seminar will allow professionals from various agencies to discuss and develop our collective approach to this issue.

"Domestic abuse is a priority for Police Scotland, the NHS and the City of Edinburgh Council and we are committed to challenging attitudes and bringing offenders to justice. We will continue to work with partners in the west of Edinburgh to develop solutions that help us to tackle this problem, which causes so much harm in local communities."

Melanie Hornett, Director of Nursing, NHS Lothian, said: "Domestic abuse and other forms of gender based violence can have an extremely negative effect upon the health and well being of a large number of people across all communities, and we support local events and seminars which help raise awareness and result in improving the quality of care for those affected as well as increasing their safety and access to help and support."

Michelle Miller, Chief Social Work Officer at the City of Edinburgh Council, said:

“We need to make sure that tackling domestic abuse is high on the agenda of our day to day business. Our workforce, whether in children’s services, community care or criminal justice, all come across issues of domestic abuse and we need to coordinate workforce training across all agencies to establish a clear understanding of domestic abuse and of our responsibility to keep our communities in Edinburgh safe from harm, neglect and exploitation.”



The Friends of the Water of Leith Basin need your help this weekend.

Please come along on Sunday 28th April at 11am to help us plant out all the wild flower plants bought with £1000 that we were awarded by Leith Decides. Meet at 11am at Coalie Park – [link](http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=326670&Y=676494&A=Y&Z=110) below showing the location.

We have some tools but if you have your own trowel or hand fork bring them along. The weather is forecast to be warm but overcast so an ideal day for planting out. Please come and join us because many hands make light work. Everyone is welcome so if any of your friends and neighbours can help bring them along.

The House @42 continues to offer good music despite continuing to discuss its continuing existence with the council. Tomorrow you can see [The Seznec Brothers](#) described as:-

Appalachian banjo tunes, electroacoustic composition, 1960s West African pop and interactive sound art. Ecclectic, that’s their middle name.....



On now at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery is a wonderful exhibition all about the funny people who have entertained us over the years.

"Tickling Jock celebrates Scotland's masters of mirth and our truly distinctive contribution to the world of entertainment in the twentieth century."

