

Dear Alyn,

[Brexite: the impact on East Lothian's Third Sector](#)

East Lothian's annual Third Sector conference took place in Musselburgh on September 22nd 2016, attended by representatives of over 30 charities and social enterprises working in the region. The conference illuminated the potential financial impact of Brexit on the Third Sector locally.

- **Sourcing funding is the foremost pressure for over half of East Lothian organisations**
- **12.5% of attending organisations receive money from European funding streams.**
- **11% of these are currently unable to identify replacement funds.**
- **Upcoming changes due to Health and Social Care integration will see 83% of these organisations under further pressure as they seek to resource a predicted rise in referrals.**

Short term, funding needs to be identified so that the Sector can continue to deliver the same standard of services to its beneficiaries and accommodate the changes anticipated with Health and Social care. Long term funding for the sector also requires consideration as grant making trusts will potentially lose investment income.

The Third Sector in particular is innovative, enterprising and efficient but careful planning is required to ensure that these organisations and their beneficiaries are not negatively affected by further cuts to spending, particularly at a time they are increasingly called upon to support statutory services.

We urge that the impact on the Third Sector and the impact on its beneficiaries be high priority in Brexit financial planning.

**Eliot Stark
Chief Executive
STRiVE**