

# Ash Denham MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament  
for Edinburgh Eastern Constituency



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**Newsletter May 2021**



## ASH TO TAKE FORWARD MENTAL HEALTH ACTION GROUP

- Newly re-elected Edinburgh Eastern MSP pledges to chair group in constituency
- Group will invite both local and national mental health stakeholders to take part



Above: Ash Denham MSP on a Teams call earlier this year with Rachel Cackett and Mairi Gordon from mental health charity Samaritans Scotland.

Days after being re-elected as the MSP for Edinburgh Eastern constituency last month, Ash Denham announced her intention to take forward plans to establish an Edinburgh Eastern specific action group on mental health.

The MSP plans to bring together stakeholders with the objective identifying the specific mental wellbeing needs of the constituency and to ensure there is more support in place for those struggling with poor or ill mental health.

The first meeting is due to be held in the coming weeks and an update will be provided following it.

Contact Ash as your local MSP

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# Denhamseeksestablishment of Community Bus Fund



Ash Denham MSP has written to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport to seek the establishment of a Community Bus Fund.

The Fund was a pledge within the SNP Holyrood manifesto and the Edinburgh Eastern MSP would like to see it rolled out as soon as it is practical.

Last month Ms. Denham met with the Community Transport Association charity and the Lothian Community Transport Services over Zoom (pictured above) to hear how such a fund could support even more people across the Capital and Scotland to live independent lives and to access vital public services and employment and volunteering reasons.

## Ash calls for UK government to extend EU citizen deadline



Above: Ash is pictured at an EU citizen surgery she held last year

Ash Denham MSP is supporting calls for the UK Government to extend the 30th June deadline for EU citizens to apply for the Settlement Scheme.

As it stands, EU citizens living in the UK have just days to go through the application process with many thousands yet to apply - Edinburgh Eastern is home to many of the 39,000 EU nationals who have chosen to make the Capital their home.

Dear constituent,

Firstly, thank you for putting your trust in me once again by re-electing me as your MSP for Edinburgh Eastern in last month's Scottish Parliament elections. It is the honour of my life to be the voice of this constituency in our National Parliament and I will continue to stand up for you and our communities.

In the run up to the election I made a number of local pledges if re-elected, and so I am delighted to be taking forward my promise to chair an Edinburgh Eastern Mental Health Action Group (read more on page 1). There were five other priorities which I will keep you updated on in the coming weeks and months - these are: to host a public meeting with Lothian Buses calling for the reinstatement of a number of discontinued services; to host more events (online or in person when safe to do so) like last year's Gilmerton Jobs Fair to support more constituents into employment; to ensure Edinburgh Eastern receives its fair share of play parks funding; to work to see Edinburgh Eastern become a Real Living Wage constituency; and to find a resolution to the Restalrig Road shaking homes issue that constituents have sought my support with.

I look forward to taking forward these actions on your behalf and to help build a better and a fairer constituency for everyone who lives here as we recover from the pandemic together.

Last month I also met with an inspiring constituent, Rebecca Glanville, who has bravely shared her story about using diet products and started a petition in the hope it will help others. Please learn more about her campaign here: <https://bit.ly/2TcNnqv>

If there is anything you would like me to do to help you please get in touch with me via email ([ash.denham.mps@parliament.scot](mailto:ash.denham.mps@parliament.scot)) or phone (0131 661 4888) and I will do all I can to help and advise you.

Yours for Scotland,

Ash.