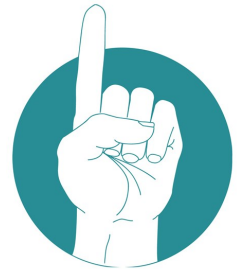


# People First (Scotland) Newsletter



Winter 2024



## Photos from 2024



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**We have tried to make our Newsletter accessible. If there is anything that is not clear then please ask a People First worker to explain.**

# Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill



**We have been campaigning for many years for a new law in Scotland that would fully realise the rights of people with a learning disability.**

**A law that would realise our right to independent living which is about support to live a full life in the community.**

**A law that would introduce a full system of supported decision-making that would give us choice and control in our life.**



**We will give evidence to the Equalities, Human Rights & Civil Justice Committee in the Scottish Parliament about the impact on our human rights without a law that does those things.**

**Members worked hard responding to proposals for a new Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill.**



**We said that the action proposed in the Bill was not as strong as we wanted. Scottish Government have now announced that the Bill is delayed.**

**When we give evidence to the committee we will say again that Scotland can make a law about us that makes the real changes needed, a law for and about us.**

# National Care Service



**We gave an update on the National Care Service work in the last newsletter to say that proposed changes to the Bill did not reflect what we had called for.**

**The National Care Service Bill was first introduced to parliament in 2022.**

**Scottish Government said it was to be a new way of delivering social care support which would mean that support is consistent across Scotland.**



**Since then, the Bill has changed a lot. The process has taken a long time and we have not been listened to in the co-design process.**

**The coalition of local authorities in Scotland have now withdrawn their support for the Bill. This means they don't think the Bill will work the way it is now and they are not going to support it.**



**Members connected to this work have fed back to say People First is frustrated and feel unheard in a Bill that could change the lives of people with a learning disability. It is about us and we should be meaningfully involved in the decision-making!**

# Parents Group

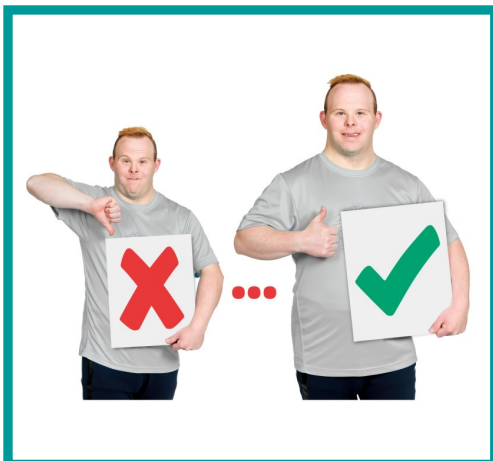


In October, Shirleyann Bremner and Bianca Wood gave a presentation on the experiences of parents with learning disabilities to Social Work students at the University of Edinburgh.

Their discussion focused on the stigma and assumptions that parents encounter, as well as the practical steps social workers can take to improve the outcomes of parents with learning disabilities.



Engaging with social work students and raising awareness is really important as it offers the chance to influence their learning and practice in the future. The Parents Group will continue to advocate for improved support for parents with a learning disability.



The Parent's Group have been working with a lead health visitor course lecturer at Glasgow Caledonian University.

We shared our experiences of both health and social work services, some positive and some where our experiences could be better. Our responses have been used to change the content of the course for the students.

# Supporting Offenders with a Learning Disability



We have finished recording short video clips for the new “Training for 999 and 101 Call Handlers”.

Call handlers are staff who work for the Police and who answer 999 and 101 calls.

The training video explains to Call Handlers how they should communicate with people who have a learning disability.



We want communication to be clear, accessible and we want to be taken seriously when we report a crime.

We have also recorded the voice over for the slides that will be in the video. The training video will be used by all Call Handlers across Scotland.

In October and November, we did 2 training sessions with Justices of the Peace and 1 with Sheriffs from across South Strathclyde, Dumfries and Galloway.



We looked at case studies and how the right support benefits people with a learning disability in the justice system.

We talked about accessible communication and fair access to the justice system.

# Impact Network



**People First (Scotland) will be taking part in an 'IMPACT Network' IMPACT stands for Improving Adult Care Together.**

**Networks are groups of people coming together in different parts of the UK to talk about social care support and how to make it better.**

**Our network will be made up of members of People First from across Scotland. The group will meet 4 times over six months.**

**The group will talk about commissioning support services and what could better support people with a learning disability to be meaningfully involved in the decision making.**



## People 1st Fraserburgh

**Members from People 1st Fraserburgh shared information about their recent development work and how to keep contact going with other groups and members across Scotland.**

**They recently received a cheque for £350 after a fundraising bike run donated by Greenwood Moreland - Insurance Brokers based in Fraserburgh.**



# The Law and Human Rights



The Law and Human Rights Group will be responding to the consultation on proposals to change parts of the Adults with Incapacity Act (AWI Act).



The AWI Act is the law that can be used to put people with a learning disability under Guardianship. This means someone else has the legal right to make decisions for that person.

We campaign for an end to Guardianship and to establish a system of supported decision making where we are supported



The consultation proposes creating new principles. One new principle would say that efforts should always be made to find out the will and preference of the person.

However, there are existing principles that are not always followed now and we worry that the new principles will not be followed either.



# Human Rights Group



Another principle would say that all efforts should be made to support someone to make their own decision before Guardianship is used.

But it doesn't say what that support would look like. It does not describe what Supported Decision-Making is.



Without a model or framework for Supported Decision-Making in place, we do not think people will be fully supported to explore decision-making.

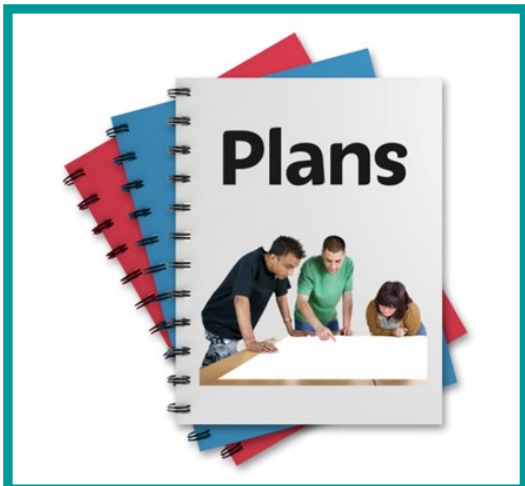
Support to make decisions is not a straightforward one off event. It is a process that takes time.



We do not think you can prove that you have been unable to support someone to make a decision. Every person with a learning disability should have the legal right to be supported to make decisions.

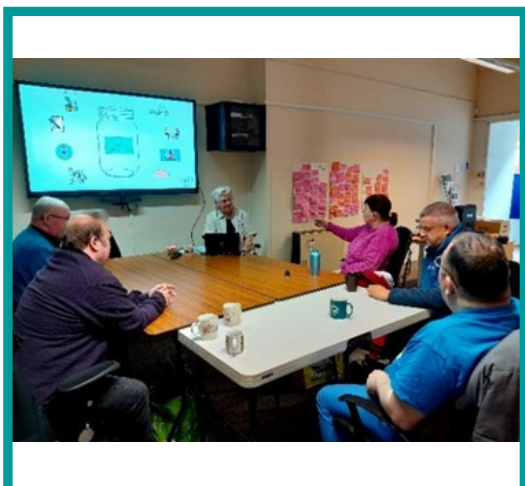
We will continue to campaign for a system of supported decision-making to be established in Scotland where we have support to make decisions throughout our life.

# Edinburgh



In September, we attended the Edinburgh Learning Disability Advisory Group (ELDAG) and shared member feedback about the Edinburgh plan for 2024 – 2027. We said cuts to social care are having a big impact on people with learning disabilities.

We also discussed the lack of accessible housing, shortages in supported flats for young people and the right to choose if we want to live in shared accommodation or not.



In October, members from Edinburgh (and beyond) met at our Easter Road office for a workshop. The topic was how we discuss death and dying, how we support each other and how we plan for ourselves.

The session was delivered by a project called End of Life Aid Skills for Everyone (EASE).



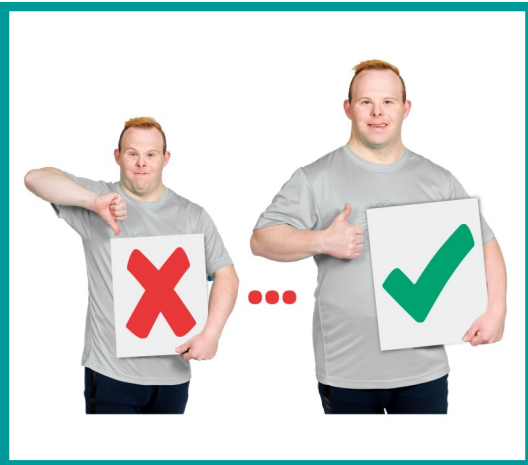
## Brian Smith

Members were saddened to hear about the passing of Edinburgh member Brian Smith. Brian was an active member of the Parents Group for many years as well as having a role in local Edinburgh groups.

# Glasgow



**Glasgow member Rosie Smith recently took part in a "Fit to practice" workshop at Strathclyde University as part of their User and Carer group. Rosie spoke to students about her lived experiences of social work interaction, this was both good and bad examples of practice.**



**The workshop looked at what qualities a Social worker should have as well as learn from the negative examples of the group members experiences.**

## Men's Group

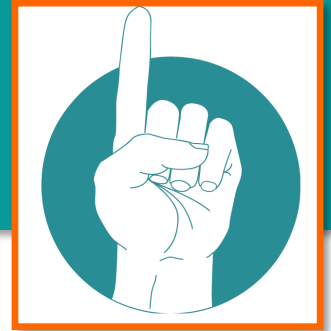
**Glasgow Men's group members have written to their local MP to ask if he will support the campaign to make prostate cancer screening a priority.**



**In the UK, prostate cancer is the second most common cause of cancer death among men, yet if detected early, survival rates can be as high as 100% in the first year.**

**Group members feel strongly that screening should be available for all men on a yearly basis.**

# Contact Information



If you would like more information about People First groups then please contact the National Office in Edinburgh. You can find the contact details below.

**YOU CAN STILL SEND MAIL TO THE OFFICE , WE WILL RECEIVE IT.**



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