

Petitioner submission of 9 January 2024

PE2053/B: Stop the cuts to community link workers and help secure their long-term future within GP practice teams

We welcome the [announcement made on 16 November 2023](#) that an additional £3.6 million of funding over three years is being provided by the Scottish Government to preserve the existing Community Link Worker (CLW) programme within Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership. We believe that this addresses the first and most pressing request to ensure the number (and percentage time) of current community link workers based in GP practices serving the poorest communities in Glasgow City is not cut from April 2024. We are grateful for this announcement, and to all those within and outwith Government who worked to make this possible. However, we would draw attention to the fact that this announcement was made late in the day and not before insecurity and uncertainty around the roles had impacted on the CLW workforce. We have been advised that a number of valued colleagues had already left post, with the loss of their expertise and trusted relationships.

We do not believe that the second request in the petition “to take binding steps to secure funding in the long term for community link workers in GP practices across Scotland” has been addressed yet.

We would like to bring to the attention of the committee a social return on investment report by Biggar Economics, which found that in 2022 the ALLIANCE Community Links Worker Programme in Glasgow supported 7,800 people and cost £2.1 million to deliver, while generating around £2.0 million gross value added (GVA) for the Scottish economy, £0.8 million in cost savings and around £0.5 million in tax and, most importantly, £18.2 million in wellbeing benefits for communities in the west of Scotland – £8.79 benefit for every £1 of public funding invested (report available from the [Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland](#)). We would also draw attention to a [research report](#) which explores in depth the range and scope of community link worker programmes across Scotland.

We are grateful for any support the Committee can offer towards the goal of securing long-term funding for this vital service in areas of greatest need.