



## The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE)



**Health, Social Care and Sport Committee call for evidence: The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Integration Joint Boards) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2025**  
**ALLIANCE response**

**28 January 2026**

## Introduction

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Committee's call for views on the Amendment Order supporting the extension of voting rights to Integration Joint Board (IJB) service user, unpaid carer and third sector representatives. The ALLIANCE has consistently advocated for IJB voting rights to be extended to these members and is strongly in support of this move, as stated most recently in our response to the Scottish Government's consultation on the matter.<sup>1</sup>

The ALLIANCE facilitates the IJB Lived Experience Representatives Network<sup>2</sup> which is a national network of individuals appointed to a role on an IJB to represent the perspectives and experiences of people who access support and services in their local area. We continue to gather evidence through this network, and have published 'More Than Equal',<sup>3</sup> a joint report with the Coalition of Carers in Scotland making recommendations for how service user and unpaid carer representatives can be supported to play a meaningful role in decision making. We have also recently joined the Scottish Government short life working group to review the statutory guidance focusing on the roles, responsibilities and membership of IJBs.

**The ALLIANCE strongly believes IJB members representing service users, unpaid carers and the third sector should be given voting rights.**

The ALLIANCE supports the proposal by the Amendment Order to extend voting rights to the following IJB members:

“third sector bodies carrying out activities related to health or social care in the area of the local authority;  
service users in the area of the local authority; and  
persons providing unpaid care in the area of the local authority.”<sup>4</sup>



This would fulfil the recommendation of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care that “every member of the Integration Joint Board should have a vote” which should include “people who use services, carers, providers, professionals, localities and local communities.”<sup>5</sup>

Although it is not the only barrier to full participation by service user and unpaid carer members of IJBs, not having voting rights contributes to them not being fully included as equal and valued members.

It is also important that the third sector should be represented with full voting rights on IJBs. The third sector plays an invaluable role in health and social care integration that is still, unfortunately, too often overlooked, particularly its work to inform and influence policy and practice improvement. Third sector organisations deliver 34% of social care services<sup>6</sup> and have substantial expertise in community led health approaches that address a broad range of social and commercial determinants, as well as community capacity building.

IJBs hold significant responsibility for realising the aims and ambitions of the Population Health Framework and the Health and Social Care Service Renewal Framework, especially the long-standing objective to shift the balance of care from acute, hospital settings into communities. It is therefore vital that the third sector has a strengthened voice in setting strategic aims and in operational decision making.

It is unclear why voting rights have not been extended to an additional group in the current regulations (“staff of the constituent authorities engaged in the provision of services provided under integrated functions”). The ALLIANCE recommends that the Committee may wish to explore this in its scrutiny.



## About the ALLIANCE

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) is the national third sector membership organisation for the health and social care sector. We bring together over 3,500 people and organisations dedicated to achieving our vision of a Scotland where everyone has a strong voice and enjoys the right to live well, with dignity and respect. Our members are essential in creating a society in which we all can thrive, and we believe that by working together, our voice is stronger.

We work to improve the wellbeing of people and communities across Scotland by supporting change in health, social care and other public services so they better meet the needs of everyone in Scotland. We do this by bringing together the expertise of people with lived experience, the third sector, and organisations across health and social care to shape better services and support positive change.

### The ALLIANCE has three core aims.

#### We seek to:

- **Empower people with lived experience:** we ensure disabled people, people with long term conditions, and unpaid carers are heard and that their needs remain at the heart of the services and communities.
- **Support positive change:** we work within communities to promote co-production, self management, human rights, and independent living.
- **Champion the third sector:** we work with, support and encourage co-operation between the third sector and health and social care organisations.

The ALLIANCE is committed to upholding human rights. We embed lived experience in our work and aim to ensure people are meaningfully involved at every level of decision-making.



Working together creates positive, long-lasting impact. We work in partnership with the Scottish Government, NHS Boards, universities, and other key organisations within health, social care, housing, and digital technology to manage funding and develop successful projects. Together, our voice is stronger, and we can create meaningful change.

## Contact

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<sup>1</sup> The ALLIANCE, Response to IJB Voting Rights consultation, (December 2025). Available at <https://www.alliance-scotland.org.uk/blog/resources/ijb-voting-rights-consultation-alliance-response/>

<sup>2</sup> The ALLIANCE, IJB Lived Experience Representative Network. Available at <https://www.alliance-scotland.org.uk/lived-experience/networks/ijb-lived-experience-representative-network/>

<sup>3</sup> The ALLIANCE and Coalition of Carers in Scotland 'More Than Equal – Valuing and supporting the expert contribution of people with lived experience' report (April 2024). Available at <https://www.alliance-scotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/More-Than-Equal-Report-2024-WEB.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Order 2014. Available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2014/285/article/3/made>

<sup>5</sup> Page 52, Independent Review of Adult Social Care. Available at <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/independent-report/2021/02/independent-review-adult-social-care->



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<sup>6</sup> National Care Service – adult social care workforce: evidence, Scottish Government, 21 June 2022. Available at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-care-serviceadult-social-care-workforce-scotland/pages/3/>

