

T: 0300 244 4000  
E: [MinisterSCMW@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterSCMW@gov.scot)

Clare Haughey MSP  
Convener  
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Sent by email:  
[hscs.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:hscs.committee@parliament.scot)

**19 March 2026**

Dear Convener,

## **COMING HOME ACTION PLAN**

I am writing to inform you that the Scottish Government and COSLA will publish our joint [Coming Home Action Plan](#) today, Thursday 19 March 2026. I am also very pleased that the Scottish Government has been able to commit up to £20m of funding to support implementation. The intention is that the majority of this funding will be distributed via the Independent Living Fund Scotland. Alongside the £20 million provided to Integration Authorities through the Community Living Change Fund, this brings our total funding to deliver the Coming Home agenda to £40 million since 2021.

In our 2022 [Coming Home Implementation Report](#) we set out our joint vision that *“the human rights of everybody with complex care needs are respected and protected and they are empowered to live their lives, the same as everyone else”*.

We want to ensure that people are not spending time in hospitals or other care settings when they are medically fit for discharge. We know that for every day spent unnecessarily in hospital or living far from home, a person loses part of their connection with their home and loved ones.

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To date, we have delivered on a number of key underpinning areas of work including:

- launching the Dynamic Support Register (DSR) in May 2023 to improve the visibility of people with learning disabilities and complex support needs at local and national levels, and support local planning and decision making
- establishing a Peer Support Network, to bring together learning disability professionals from across Scotland to share best practice and support the planning services of for individuals with particularly complex care needs
- seeking views on a National Support Panel to improve support and accountability, including hearing from families and individuals about their individual circumstances in the [Consultation on the LDAN Bill](#), which set out options for the scope and remit of this Panel

The [latest quarterly DSR data](#), published by Public Health Scotland (PHS) on Tuesday 17 March 2026, indicates some positive progress. This latest quarterly data from December 2025 reports that 391 people on the DSR were recorded as being in the urgent category (down from 459 in December 2024). Of those:

- 68 people were delayed in hospital, compared to 84 in December 2024
- 31 people had been in hospital for at least ten years, compared to 40 in December 2024
- 28 people were recorded as being inappropriately out-of-area, compared to 53 in December 2024
- 187 people were recorded as being at risk of support breakdown, compared to 227 in December 2024

Although the DSR is a relatively new data collection and trends need to be interpreted with caution, the data shows improvement compared to the previous year. However, delivering the ambition for significant change will require ongoing focus.

The Scottish Government and COSLA established the Coming Home Short Life Working Group (SLWG) in July 2025. Chaired by Dr Anne MacDonald, who authored the original Coming Home Report, the purpose of this group was to build on previous work, identify and prioritise actions for immediate implementation and develop an action plan to address the outstanding recommendations in the Coming Home Implementation Report and outline priorities for future implementation.

The senior stakeholders who formed the membership of the SLWG brought a range of cross-sectoral experience across health, social care and housing. They identified and led work on seven priority themes covering:

- Dynamic Support Register data
- National Support Panel
- Redesign of Learning Disability Inpatient Services
- People in hospital for 10 years or more
- Housing availability, suitability and sustainability
- Skilling up and strengthening community services

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- Collaborative approach to commissioning services

They have delivered work at pace and have already progressed a number of actions, including the development of a new [Housing Options Guide](#) and [Coming Home Training Guidance](#).

The Action Plan provides an update on progress to date, addresses the outstanding recommendations from the Coming Home Implementation Report, and sets out further actions required to achieve the Coming Home vision and mission.

Next steps for implementation include establishing the relevant oversight and delivery mechanisms for the action plan. This will include establishing a Lived Experience Hub which will provide a national, coordinated mechanism to ensure people with learning disabilities and their families can be involved in the delivery of the Coming Home Action Plan in a meaningful way.

We are also engaging with the Scottish Human Rights Commission and we are keen to obtain their advice on the development of an appropriate human rights framework for implementation.

I would be grateful if you could bring the publication of this report to the attention of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee.

Councillor Kelly and I would also like to record our thanks to every member of the Short Life Working Group for their time, dedication and commitment in developing the Action Plan.

I am copying this letter to the Presiding Officer, the Convener of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee and COSLA's Health and Social Care Spokesperson, Councillor Kelly.

Yours sincerely,



**TOM ARTHUR MSP**

Cc Alison Johnstone MSP, Presiding Officer: [Presidingofficers@parliament.scot](mailto:Presidingofficers@parliament.scot)  
Karen Adam MSP, Convener, Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee: [ehrcj.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:ehrcj.committee@parliament.scot)  
Councillor Paul Kelly, COSLA: [health@cosla.gov.uk](mailto:health@cosla.gov.uk)

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