

# **Cross-Party Group on Learning Disability**



## **Minutes of the meeting**

**Where: Scottish Parliament & Zoom**

**Date: Wednesday 30 October 2024**

**Time: 1 PM – 2:30 PM**

Produced by Enable  
Cross-Party Group Secretariat

## **People who were there**

### **MSPs**

Paul O'Kane MSP - Convener

Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP (zoom)

### **Members:**

Jamie Cooke

Emma Barron

Gary Airnes

Hollie Reynolds

Ali Preston

Sonya Bewsher

Francis McDonald

Maureen Martin

James McNab

David Scott

Rhonda Neil

David

Colin Menabney

Lorne Berkley

# **People who were there**

## **Members:**

Jenny Miller

Claire Muir

Sandy Cruickshank

Eddie McConnel

Sheena Jones

Fiona Barlow

## **People Who could not make it to the meeting and sent their**

### **MSPs:**

- Stephanie Callaghan MSP
- Oliver Mundell MSP
- Gillian McKay MSP
- *Jackie Ballie MSP (?)*

### **Members:**

- Andrew Muir
- Angela Reid
- Lynnette Linton

If you are aware of any missing information, please contact us:

**[cp@enable.org.uk](mailto:cp@enable.org.uk)**

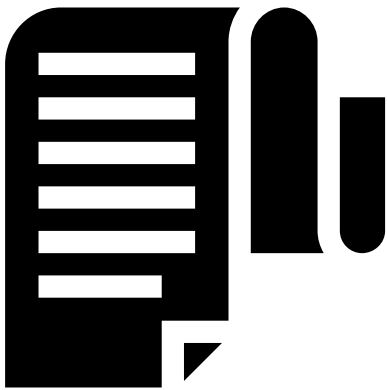
We know that not all names were captured at the meeting and apologise for any missing information.

We also ask if you join on Zoom, could you please put your full name and organisation.



## **1. Welcome and apologies**

Paul welcomed everybody both in the room and who joined on Zoom.



## **2. Minutes and Matters Arising from last meeting**

We agreed that the minutes from the previous meeting in November were correct.

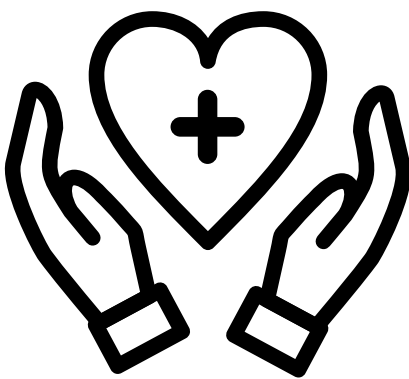


## **2. Minutes and Matters Arising from last meeting**

The actions from November's meeting were:



- Have someone come along and update on the LDAN Bill.

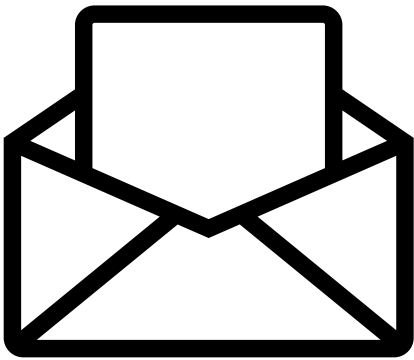


- Find out information about the Health Checks promised by the Scottish Government
- Talk to the Government to get an update on Social Care charging.



## **2. Minutes and Matters Arising from last meeting**

Members of the CPG were updated on the progression of the previous actions:

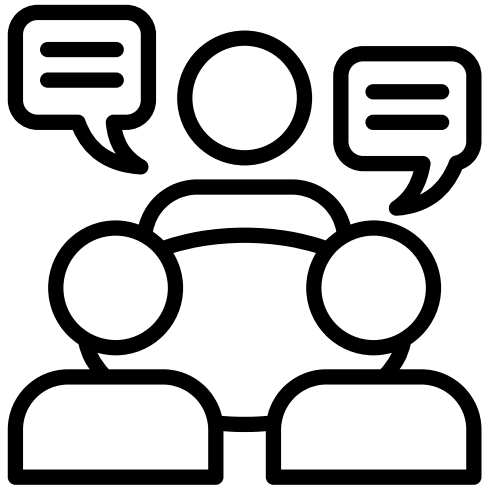


- An invite will be sent to the minister to invite along
- Paul's office will update on health checks



- Will continue to discuss care charges and think about what we as members of the CPG can do.





### **3.AGM**

This meeting was the CPGs  
AGM



An AGM is the annual general meeting. This happens once every year.

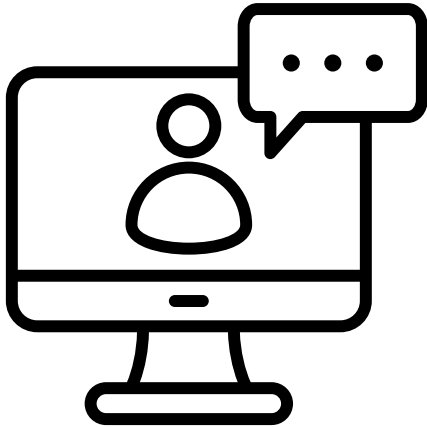
Paul was re-elected as convener.

Stephanie Callaghan was re-elected as vice chair.

Enable will continue to be secretariat for the CPG on learning disabilities.



## **4. Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill**



Jacqueline Campbell joined the meeting virtually to provide the group and update on the LDAN Bill.



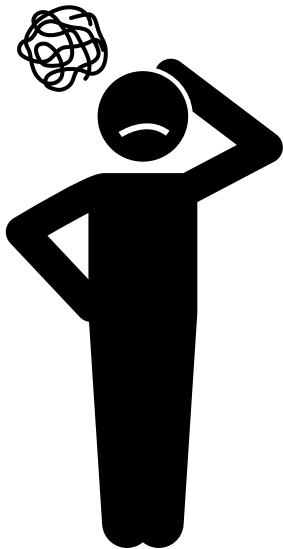
It was discussed that the LDAN Bill would not be passed this parliamentary term.

Jacqueline reassured members of the CPG that there was still commitment to the LDAN Bill.



## **4. Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill**

This was disappointing to hear with many members of the CPG expressing their frustrations and concerns.



People First said that they want action and people with learning disabilities have been campaigning for their rights to be in law for far too long.



## **4. Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill**

People First said that they are concerned about the lack of progress on the realisation of people with learning disabilities rights.

They said once again people with learning disabilities are low down on the list of priorities.

People First highlighted that there is a lack of communication and lack of meaningful involvement of people with learning disabilities.



## **4. Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill**

People First said that they want the Scottish Government to establish a full system of supported decision making to empower people with learning disabilities.



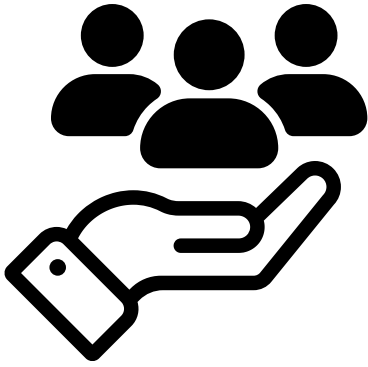
#### **4. Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill**



It was asked by a member of the CPG what is it that the LDAN Bill going to do that the Human Rights act shouldn't be doing already.

Jaqueline said that there is still on going work on the Scottish Mental Health Law Review.

She said the Government is taking forward a plan.



## 5. Human Rights

Emma Barron Enable's Human Rights Lead talked to the CPG members about the Human Rights Bill and important legislation.



Emma talked about the background on the proposed human rights Bill.



## 5. Human Rights

She discussed that in 2018, Nicola Sturgeon formed an advisory group on human rights.



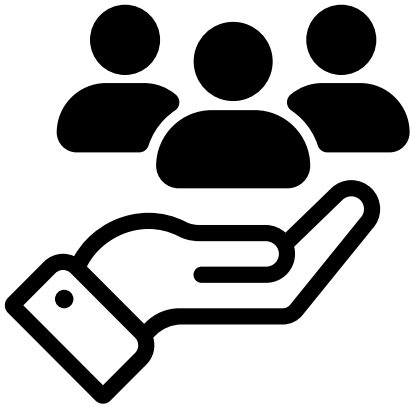
In 2019 a national taskforce for human rights leadership was formed.

In 2021 the task force published 30 recommendations for the human rights bill.



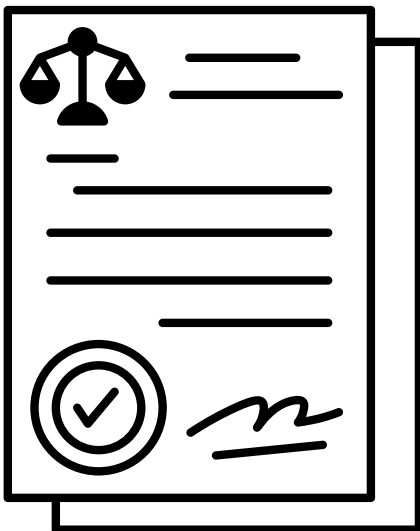
The first minister at the time, Nicola Sturgeon, accepted all the recommendations.





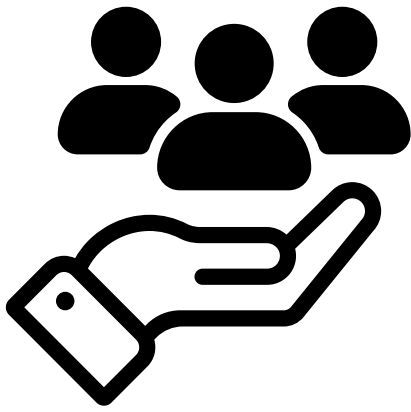
## 5. Human Rights

Emma said that the Bill aimed at bringing the 4 UN human rights treaties into Scots Law.



The most important one of note for the CPG is the UN Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities.

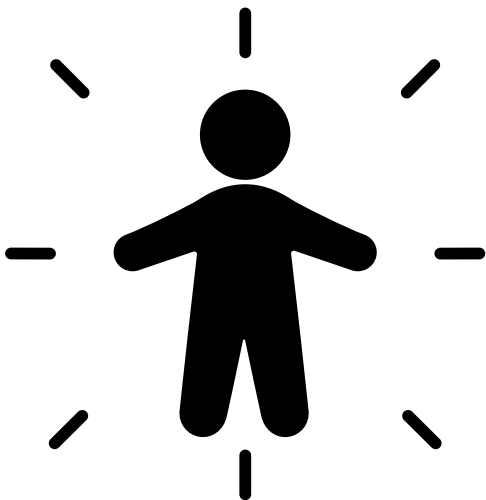
This aims to make sure that the rights of people with disabilities are protected in law.



## 5. Human Rights

Emma shared a statement from Enable's Membership Ambassador Heather Gilchrist who was unable to join the meeting.

Heather's statement spoke about the frustration felt by many people with learning disabilities at the lack of progress on LDAN and the Human Rights Bill.



People with a learning disability also need to be a priority.



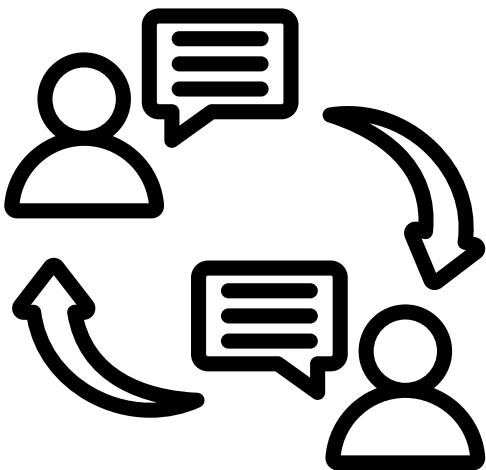
## 5. Human Rights

There was lots to talk about. With many people sharing their frustration at the lack of progress.



Sandy spoke about the cuts being made to services in Edinburgh.

It was felt that people with lived experience were not being involved enough in decision making processes.



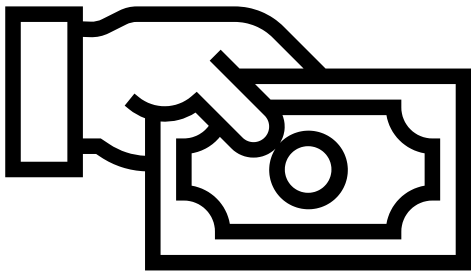
There was discussion around how the LDAN Bill and other legislation was to interact



## **6. Any other Business**

Sonya Brewsher from the Assembly spoke to members about care charges.

She said that she was recently made aware of 20 people who had never paid care charges before being invited to a meeting.



They were then told at this meeting that they would have to pay the care charges, this was stressful for those involved.

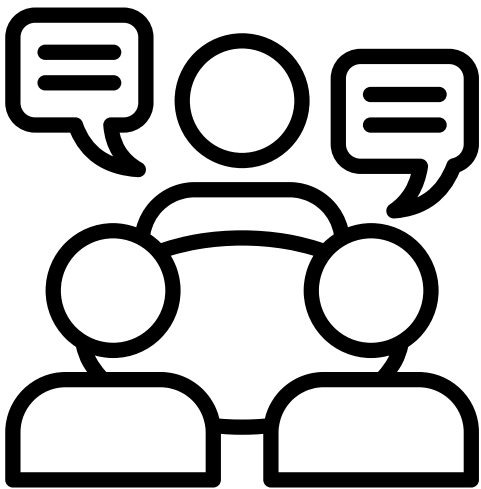


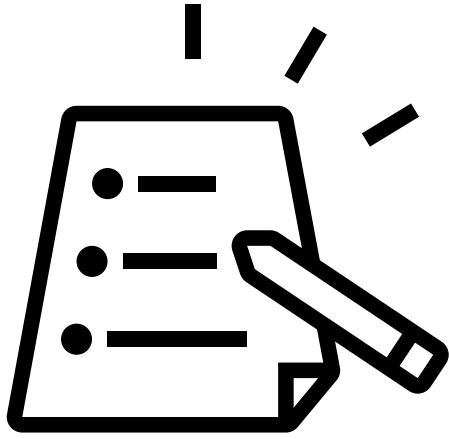
## **6. Any other Business**

Sonya said that a conversation was had with Maree Todd who said that at the moment there isn't any money to get rid of care charges.

Sonya said there is an opportunity here to bring people together and think about what the other solutions are.

The CPG agreed that this was a very important issue that we needed to come together to think about.

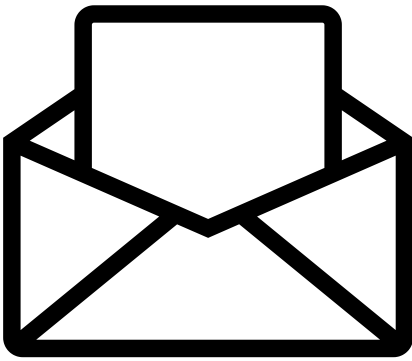




## 6. Actions

The proposed actions were to:

- Ask the minister for better clarity around what is happening with the Scottish Mental Health Law Review (SMHLR)
- Invite Minister to the next CPG meeting, along with an invite outline the groups concerns on the issues around LDAN, SMHLR and the human Rights Bill



# Do you have any questions?



We hope you found these minutes helpful.



If you have any questions about this update you can contact Enable



You can email ENABLE Scotland at:

**[cpg@enable.org.uk](mailto:cpg@enable.org.uk)**

Produced by Enable  
Cross-Party Group Secretariat