

Cross-Party Group on Learning Disability



Minutes of the meeting

Where: Scottish Parliament & Zoom

Date: Wednesday 5th March 2025

Time: 1 PM – 2:30 PM

Produced by Enable
Cross-Party Group Secretariat

People who were there

MSPs:

- Paul O'Kane MSP - Convener
- Gillian MacKay MSP (zoom)

Members:

- Emma Barron
- Gary Airnes
- Hollie Reynolds
- Lucy McKee
- Cameron Smith
- Craig Bryce
- Heather Gilchrist
- Sonya Bewsher
- William Rae
- Claire Muir
- M. Black
- Aaron Hume
- Mandy Baker
- Sandy Cruickshank

People who were there

Members:

- Sharee Stewart
- Dawn Fee
- Simon Webster
- Gayle Forsyth
- Jenny Miller
- Sheena Jones
- Catriona Neil
- Rizardas Easpinsit
- Peter McMahon
- Eddie McConnell
- Sally Anne Elferson
- Colin Menabney
- David Scott
- James McNab
- Caroline Kingston
- Erin McGarry
- Sean Gruby
- Joanne

People who could not make it to the meeting and sent their apologies

MSPs:

- Oliver Mundell MSP

Members:

- Andrew Muir

If you are aware of any missing information, please contact us: **cpg@enable.org.uk**

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



1. Welcome and apologies

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

We apologised for starting late and technical issues.



2. Minutes and Matters Arising from last meeting

We agreed that there were some spelling errors in the minutes from the previous meeting in October.

Otherwise, they were correct.

Arran proposed the minutes and **Cameron** seconded them.



2. Minutes and Matters Arising from last meeting

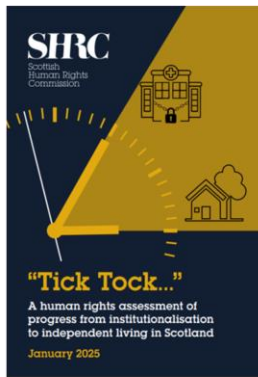
The actions from October's meeting were:



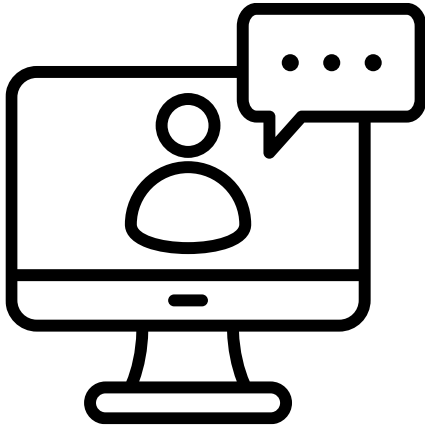
- Ask Minister for more clarity on the Mental Health Law Review.



- Ask Minister to come to CPG and talk about the groups concerns on LDAN, Human Rights Bill and Mental Health Law Review.



4. Scottish Human Rights Commission 'Tick Tock' Report



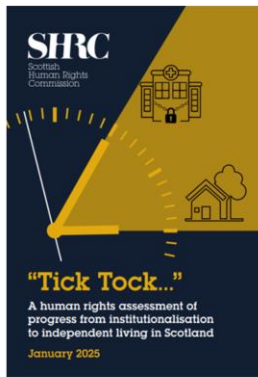
Lorne Berkley joined the meeting virtually to provide an overview of the SHRCs 'Tick Tock' Report.



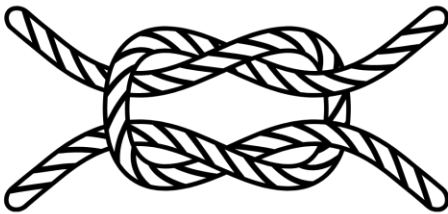
It was discussed that insitutionalised care is a break of the right to independent living.



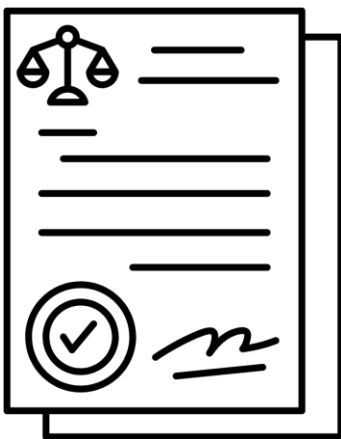
The report says that the Coming Home Implementation Plan has not done enough to get people home and in their own community.



4. Scottish Human Rights Commission 'Tick Tock' Report



Lorne explained that some laws in Scotland apply to people with a learning disability that allows this to be restricted.

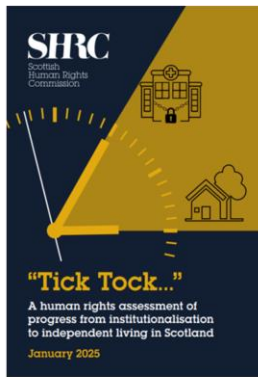


The report says people living in institutions are doing so for longer.

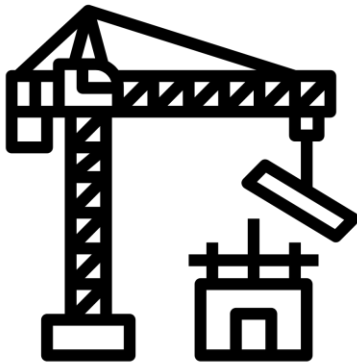
This goes against the Human Rights Act.



The report says there should be a plan for people in institutions and the Scottish Government should apologise and speak on institutions.



4. Scottish Human Rights Commission 'Tick Tock' Report



New Routes Home said that there are still plans to build institutions.

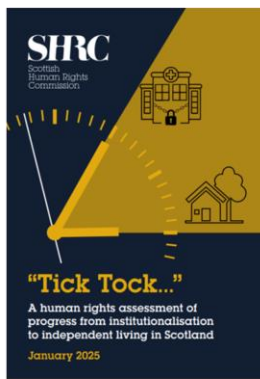


Members asked how do we get appropriate and affordable housing that meets peoples needs for when they leave institutions.



People First said we need an update on the Coming Home Report.

The deadline was a year ago.



4. Scottish Human Rights Commission 'Tick Tock' Report

People want to know where the money for Coming Home has been spent.



PAMIS suggested we all work together as a 'Think-tank' to produce solutions.



People spoke on housing but also support.

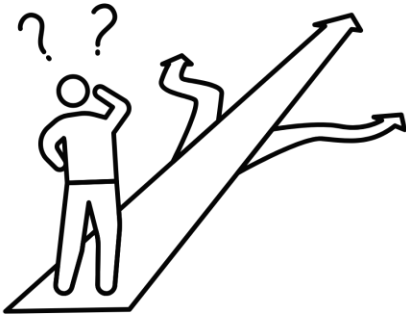
People said agency should not be an option.



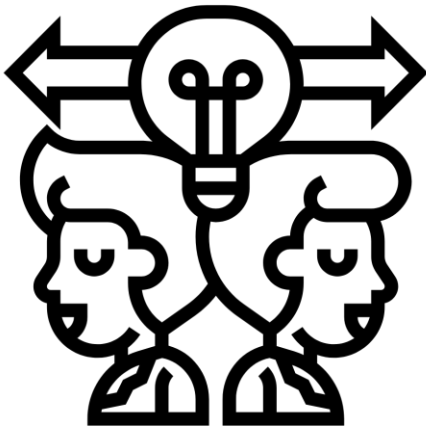
People First said they cannot believe in this day and age people with learning disabilities are still living in hospitals.



5. Supported Decision Making



The changes with the Adults with Incapacity Act had no time to introduce more supported decision making.



The principle currently says you must show you have tried to support someone to make a decision, and it has failed before applying for guardianship.

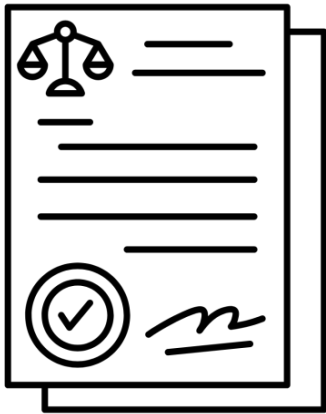


People First do not agree with this as everyone can be supported to make a decision through inclusive communication and strong trusting relationships.



5. Supported Decision Making

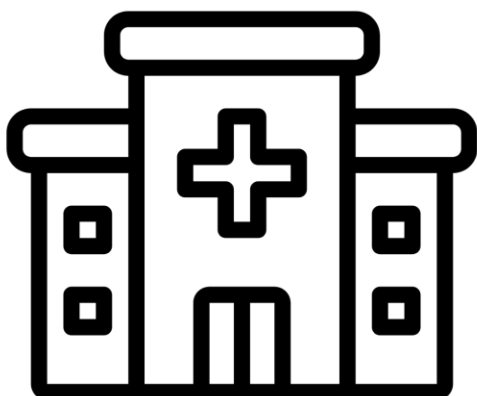
People First spoke on the Mental Health Act and the definition of mental disorder.



Learning disability being included is caused people to be in hospital who shouldn't be.



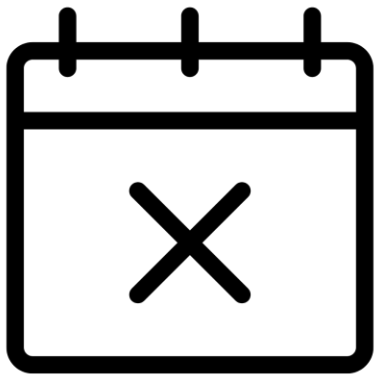
They also want an update on the LDAN Bill since consultation and if the bill will not just look at training as this is too narrow a focus.



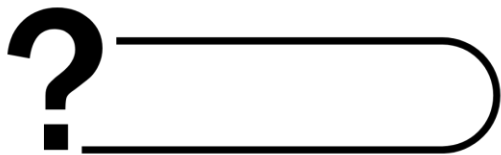
Members asked will the Mental Health Law Review look at people in hospitals.



6. Social Care Charges



The Assembly started by saying we wanted to write to the Minister on what the plan was to end all social care charges.

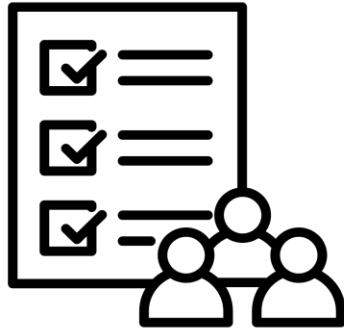


Paul said he done better than this and got an oral question into the Chamber.

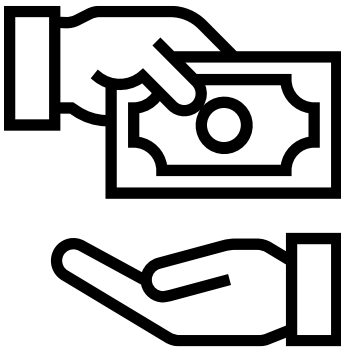
He said the response was not the best and there was no direct answer to the question.



6. Social Care Charges



Colin from the Enable Glasgow Branch said non-residential care charges are getting worse and financial assessments are not done or not done correctly.



He said the service provider is required to collect the payment on behalf of the council.

This can be reclaimed from the council, but it is hard.

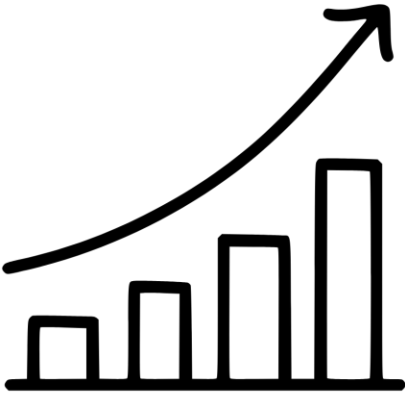


He said some people are asked to pay transport on top of their client contribution which would be provided in their Self-Directed Support Package.



6. Social Care Charges

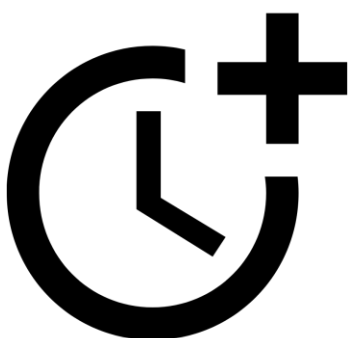
Colin spoke that in Glasgow City Council there has been 2 increases in care charges.



He said it would be good to have these stalled or at least capped to stop the hardship for people.



Sonya from the Assembly said people in Glasgow whose care charges were being increased only had 4 days to complete this survey online.

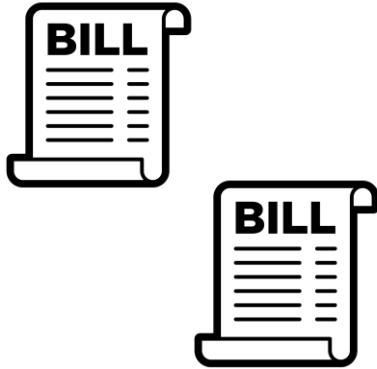


The Assembly asked for an extension to allow postal responses but got no answer.



6. Social Care Charges

Sonya also said East Renfrewshire Council are looking to introduce social care charges.



A lot of people in East Renfrewshire have 2-2-1 care so would need to pay double.



The decision on these charges has been deterred until April 2026.



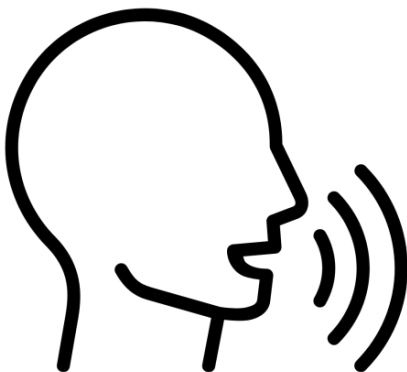
Sonya said it is still a worry because the Scottish Government were looking to remove care charges all together.



6. Social Care Charges



Peter McMahon spoke about his own social care charges and is scared that they are going to rise through the roof in April.



He said he does not agree that they should have access to your benefits or finances.



Sandy said everyone's bills are increasing but for people with a learning disability benefits are only going up 3% but taxes are up 6%.



6. Social Care Charges

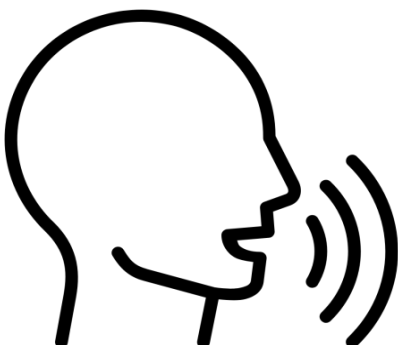


Sandy also said people cannot afford social care and are going into NHS services which are free.

Solution to NHS crisis is to fund social care.



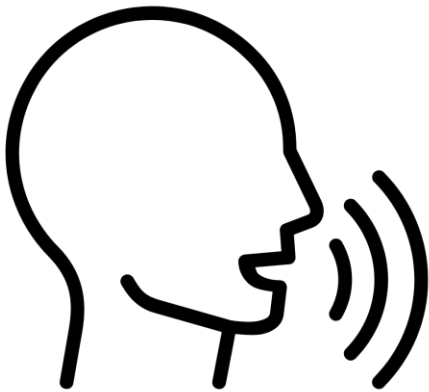
Paul said there is an extra 5.2 billion in the Scottish Governments Budget but he still could not get an answer on the situation with non-residential care charges.



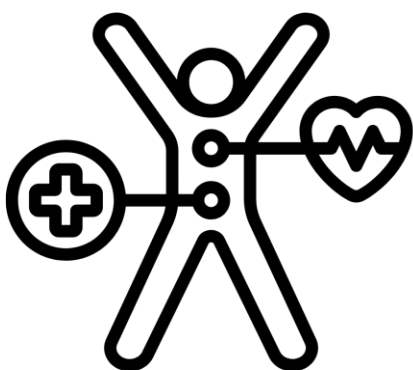
People First said people with a learning disability are skint and cannot afford even 1 day of social care.



7. Any Other Business

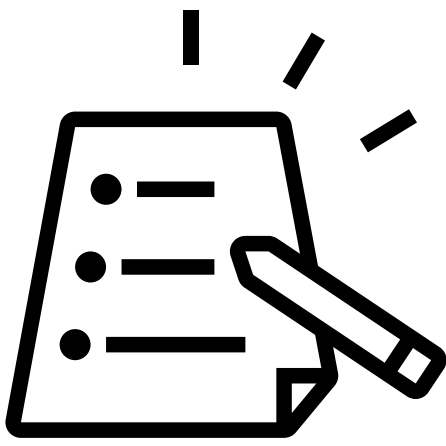


Karen Procock would like to come to the next meeting and talk about health checks.



She would like to talk about this and health boards failing.

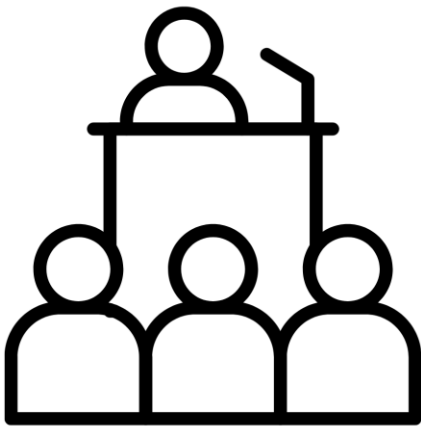
The group asked to hear from the minister on why most people with a learning disability have not had their health checks yet.



7. Any Other Business



The Assembly is working with the Policy Team of the Scottish Government to create a booklet to make it easier to know who to contact in each health board for health checks.



They have a conference on this.



It will take place in May.



7. Any Other Business

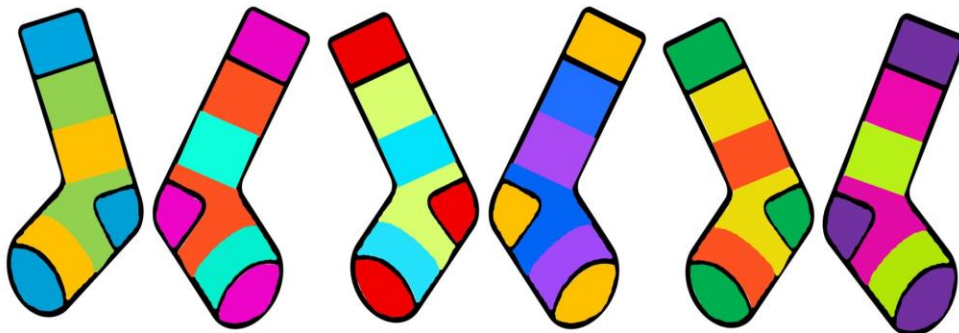
Eddy from Down Syndrome Scotland invited everyone to join them on World Down Syndrome Day.



**Down's
Syndrome
Scotland**

helping people realise their potential

It is on the 21st of March.



World Down Syndrome Day

• • • **March 21** • • •



8. Actions

We agreed on a few actions to take forward:

1

1. Ask the Minister for an update on the Coming Home Report and where the £12 million was spent.

2

2. Hear from the Minister on the Dynamic Support Register.

3

3. Invite the Minister for Housing, Paul McLennan, to come to next CPG.

4

4. Have the researchers from the University of Glasgow to come and discuss their report in the next CPG.

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 at:

cpg@enable.org.uk

Produced by Enable
Cross-Party Group Secretariat