

Cross-Party Group on Learning Disability



Minutes of the meeting

Where: Scottish Parliament & Zoom

Date: Wednesday 29 October 2025

Time: 1 pm to 2.30 pm

Produced by Enable
Cross-Party Group Secretariat

People who were there

MSPs

- Jackie Baillie MSP - Convener
- Oliver Mundell MSP (zoom)

Members:

- Gary Airnes - Enable
- Hollie Reynolds - Enable
- Craig Bryce - Enable
- Sonya Bewsher - The Alliance
- Sandy Cruickshank - The Alliance
- Caroline Kingston - People First Scotland
- James McNab - People First Scotland
- Euan Carmichael - Quarriers
- Amy Bailey - The Assembly
- Edi Eftekahar - The Assembly
- Aaron Hume - The Assembly
- William Rae
- Sean Grubb - The Action Group
- Shree Stewart - Have Your Say

People who were there

- Colin Menabney - Enable Glasgow
- Sally Ann Elfverson - Enable Glasgow
- Heather Gilchrist - Enable
- Eddie McConnell - Down Syndrome Scot
- Amanda McCarren - Scot Gov
- Dr Jana DeVilliers - Royal College of Psychiatrists
- Dr Ganesan Rajagopal - Chair, Faculty of Intellectual Disabilities, Royal College of Psychiatrists in Scotland
- Scott Taylor - NHS Lothian
- Sarah McClarey - Salvesen Mindroom Centre
- Julie Brown
- Ewan Hamilton - The Assembly

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

MSPs:

- Stephanie Callaghan MSP
- Pam Duncan Glancy MSP
- Gillian McKay MSP
- Paul O'Kane MSP

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.

We had issues collecting zoom names due to some technical issues on the day. We can collect them and add them when we next meet.



1. Welcome and apologies

Jackie Baillie MSP welcomed everyone attending in the room and online. No formal apologies were noted in the room.



2. Minutes and Matters Arising from last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting in June 2025 were proposed by Michael Baker and seconded by Sally Ann Elferson.



Scottish Government
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3. Minister Update: Tom Arthur MSP

Tom Arthur the Minister for Social Care and Mental Wellbeing provided a update on key government work:

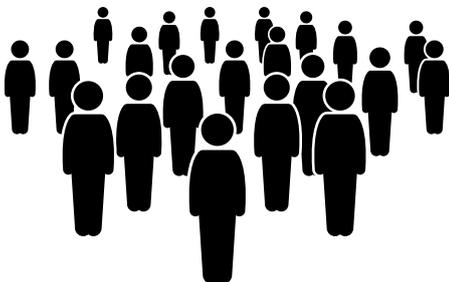


3. Minister Update: Tom Arthur MSP (Annual Health Checks)

Toms update regarding Health Checks:



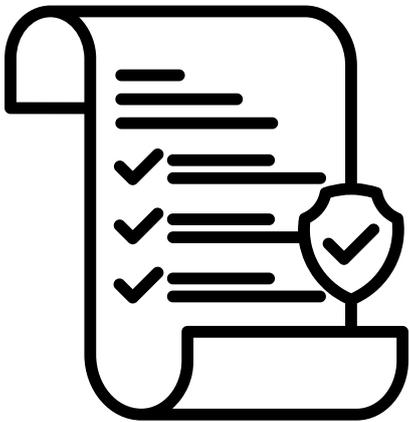
- Annual Health Checks can help find health needs earlier.
- Health checks can lead to more referrals (support) to other health services.
- Health checks can help people feel well and stay well.





3. Minister Update: Tom Arthur MSP (Annual Health Checks)

Tom also said:



- Health check delivery is improving this year.
- This is supported by Scottish Government investment and work with NHS Boards.

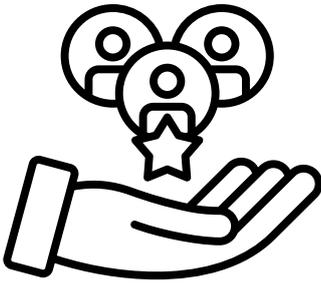


- The government will keep supporting NHS Boards to fully deliver annual health checks.



3. Minister Update: Tom Arthur MSP (Coming Home)

Toms update regarding Coming Home:



- Coming Home remains a priority.
- It is not acceptable for people to stay in hospital if they are medically fit to leave.
- Staying in hospital too long harms people's lives and connections to family, friends and community.



3. Minister Update: Tom Arthur MSP (Coming Home)

Tom provided a update on
Dynamic Support Registers:



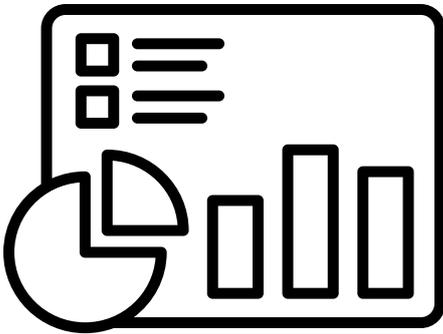
- Dynamic Support Registers went live in May 2023.
- All 31 Integration Authorities are using them.
- The registers support better planning and monitoring.



3. Minister Update: Tom Arthur MSP (Coming Home)

Tom provided a update on **Public Health Scotland data**:

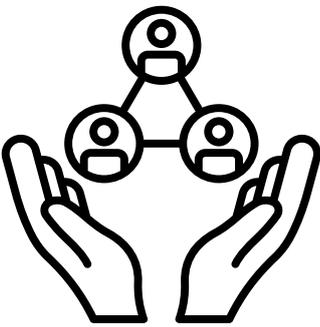
- Public Health Scotland publishes quarterly statistics
- Tom said it was encouraging to see fewer people in hospital or placed out of area compared to last year.





3. Minister Update: Tom Arthur MSP (Coming Home)

Tom provided a update on **Peer Support Network:**

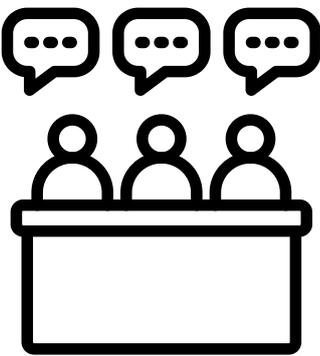


- A peer support network was launched in October 2024.
- It supports learning events for health and social care staff.



3. Minister Update: Tom Arthur MSP (Coming Home)

Tom provided a update on **Pathways and national support panel:**



- Work is happening to map a complex support needs pathway.

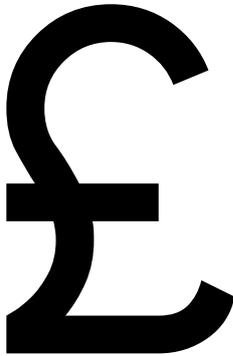


- Proposals for a national support panel were included in the LDAN Bill consultation.



3. Minister Update: Tom Arthur MSP (Coming Home)

Tom provided a update on
Funding:

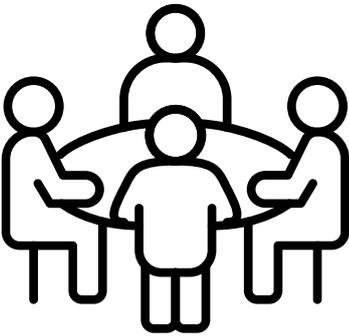


- Scottish Government distributed £20 million in 2021 through the Community Learning Change Fund.
- Funding supported redesign of local community services.



3. Minister Update: Tom Arthur MSP (Coming Home)

Tom provided a update on **Short Life Working Group**:



- Scottish Government set up a Coming Home Short Life Working Group in July 2025.

- It will produce an action plan by the end of the year.



- Its themes include: housing, national support panel, people in hospital for over 10 years, and skilled community services.

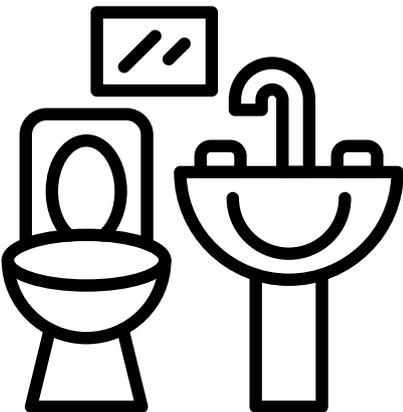


4. Minister Update: Tom Arthur MSP (Changing Places toilets)

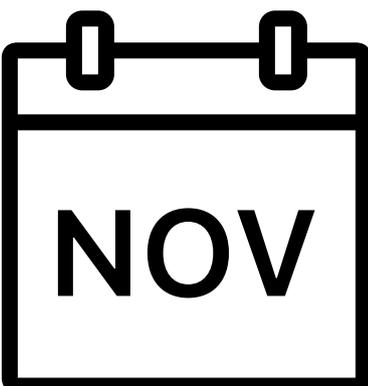
Tom provided a updated on **Changing Places Toilets:**



- Scottish Government launched a £10 million Changing Places Toilets Fund.



- The fund supports improved toilet provision for people with complex needs.
- Over 90 applications were received.



- Funding awards were expected by the end of November.

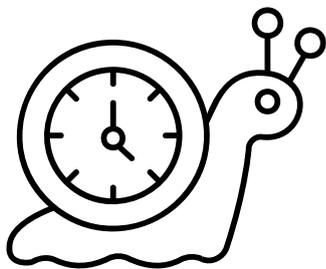


5. Questions and discussion

Members asked questions about **Coming Home progress and out of area placements:**



- Jackie asked if a new working group meant earlier progress had not been successful.



- Tom said progress had been made but it was not enough.

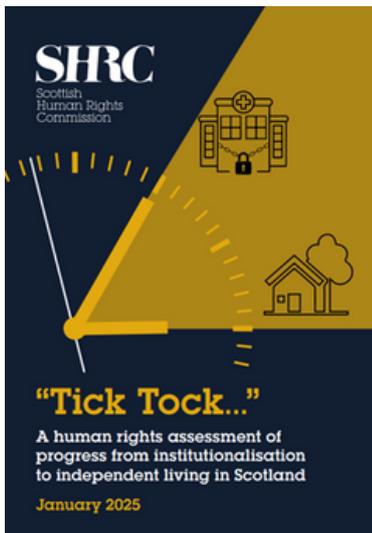


- William raised concerns about people being moved far away from home, including to England.



5. Questions and discussion

- William raised the TikTok report and asked what government learned from it.
- Tom said he met the (Mental Welfare) Commissioner and would meet again





5. Questions and discussion

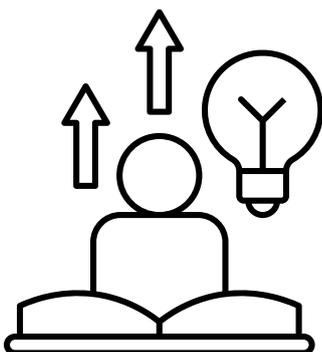
Members asked questions about **Support for non-verbal children:**



- Sandy raised concerns about support for non-verbal children and 24 hour care needs.



- Sandy said people need understanding of communication supports like PEX and other methods.



- Tom said officials would follow up for detail and that training and awareness should improve.



5. Questions and discussion

Members asked questions about **LDAN Bill:**

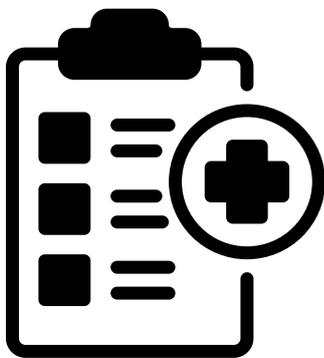


- Heather asked what is happening with the LDAN Bill and how rights will be made real.
- Tom said draft provisions would be published before the election.
- Tom said he could not give an exact date, but it would be soon.
- Tom spoke about Parliament discussions on the role of a commissioner.



5. Questions and discussion

Members asked questions about **Health check delivery concerns:**



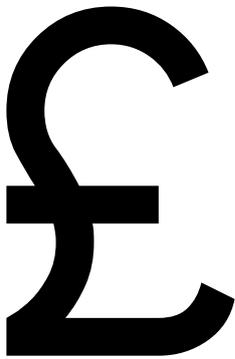
- Aaron said delivery is still poor and people have not been invited for checks.
- Tom said all Boards are delivering and NHS Lanarkshire had been an outlier but is now delivering.
- William said he spoke to over 100 people in NHS Grampian and none had had a health check.



5. Social Security and Support Costs



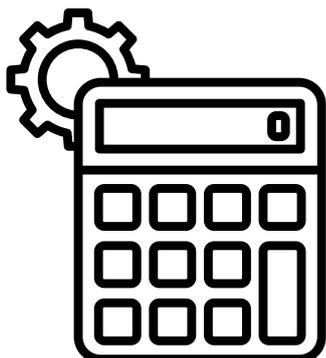
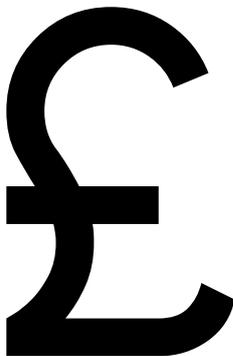
- Tom said Grampian is delivering but he would follow up.
- Tom encouraged members to contact him if delivery is not happening locally





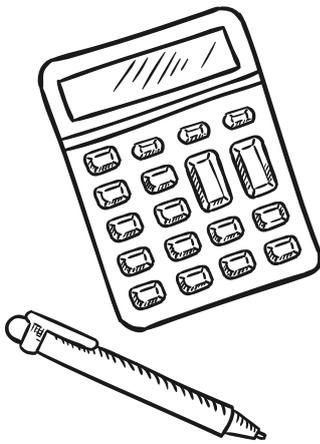
5. Questions and discussion

Members asked questions about **Care charging / personal contributions**



- Sandy raised strong concerns about care charges and personal contributions.
- Sandy said the system creates paperwork and stress for families and carers.
- Colin said care charging often hits areas of deprivation hardest.
- Sean raised concerns about hardship and people isolating themselves due to costs.

5. Questions and discussion



- Jackie said both Labour and SNP manifestos previously promised to scrap care charges, but delivery has not happened.
- Tom said there are financial pressures, but government continues work with COSLA and local partners.
- Sandy said care charges can push people into crisis and even institutional care.

5. Questions and discussions



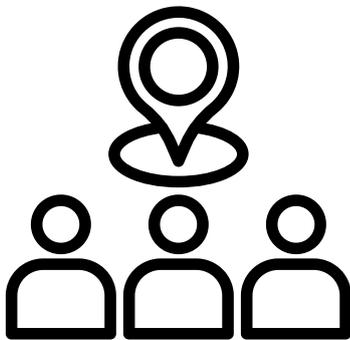
Members asked questions about

Cuts to local services:

- Cherie said cuts are stopping people taking part in the community.



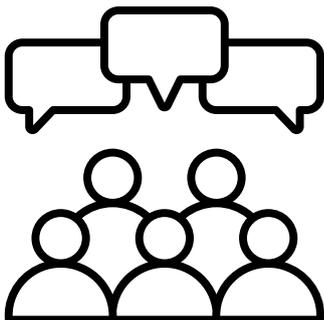
- Jackie said too many “good documents” exist, but delivery on the ground is too slow



5. Questions and discussions



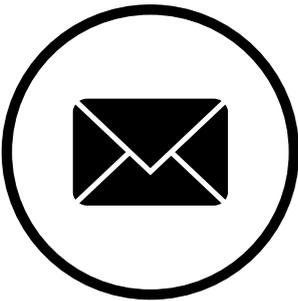
Members asked questions about **Participation and lived experience in Coming Home work:**



- People First Scotland raised that CRAG does not include lived experience enough.
- They asked how government will involve people with lived experience in future.
- Tom said lived experience involvement is important and he would explore a more structured approach.



6. Minister closing comments



- Tom said his door is open and members can contact him or raise issues through the CPG.

- Tom said he would be happy to return to a future meeting.



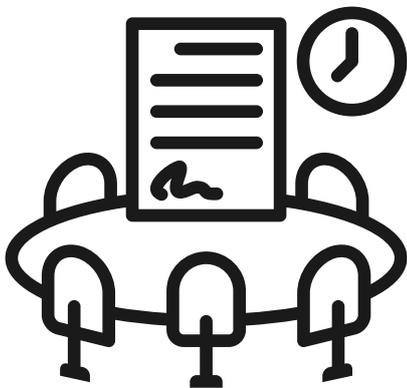
- Jackie thanked Tom for giving generous time.



7. AGM Business

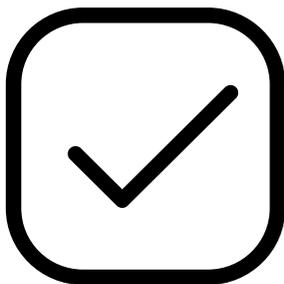
Jackie led the AGM section

Previous minutes agreed



- The group reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting (June 2025).

- Heather proposed the minutes as accurate.



- Sean seconded the minutes
- No amendments were raised

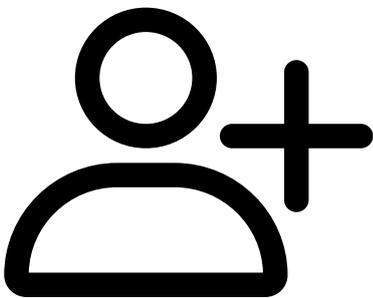


7. AGM Business

MSP members confirmed

Jackie confirmed MSP members signed up for the year ahead:

- Paul O’Kane MSP
- Stephanie Callaghan MSP
- Oliver Mundell MSP
- Gillian Mackay MSP
- Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP
- Jackie Baillie MSP





7. AGM Business

Convener and Vice Convener

- Jackie nominated Paul O’Kane MSP to remain Convener
- Members agreed.
- Jackie confirmed Stephanie Callaghan MSP as Vice Convener.



Secretariat

- Members agreed Enable should continue as Secretariat.





8. Any Other Business

- Jackie noted this was Eddie McConnell's last CPG meeting as CEO of Down Syndrome Scotland.
- Jackie thanked Eddie for his work and wished him well.





9. Close

- Jackie thanked everyone for attending and contributing.
- Jackie said the next meeting date would be shared once confirmed.

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