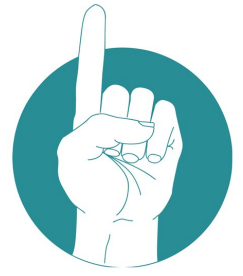


People First (Scotland) Newsletter



Spring 2024



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We have tried to make our Newsletter accessible. If there is anything that is not clear then please ask a People First worker to explain.

United Nations



In March Rosie Smith and Keith Lynch attended the United Nations in Geneva representing People First (Scotland).

People First (Scotland) were there along with other Disabled People's Organisations from around the UK to hear the UK and Scottish Government give evidence to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) describes the rights that disabled people should have.

The rights in the CRPD include Health, Education, Employment, Access to Justice, Accessibility, Independent living and equality before the law.



They are the strongest possible rights for people with a learning disability. The Committee look at what Governments are doing to meet the rights in the Convention.

In August last year, Keith told the UN Committee that these rights are not met and day to day dignity and respect is denied to learning disabled citizens.

United Nations



Rosie and Keith met with Sir Robert Martin while they were in Geneva. Sir Robert is the first person with a learning disability to sit on a UN Committee.

People First (Scotland) first met with Sir Robert back in 2018 when he was visiting Scotland along with another New Zealand People First member.



It is his last year sitting on the UN Committee and Rosie and Keith were pleased to take the opportunity to strengthen this connection once again.

The links made with other Disabled People's Organisations through our presence in Geneva have also led to strong partnership working.

People First (Scotland) has been working with Inclusion London to create a film about the UN convention.



We have also joined a UK wide network called 'Get Our People Home'. Together we share information about the campaigning work we do to get people out of hospital.

LDAN Bill consultation

Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill:
Consultation



We have been incredibly busy looking at the **Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill Consultation**.

It is often called the **LDAN Bill** for short.

In February we held an event at Norton Park for members to come together and look at the consultation to consider whether it is strong enough to meet our Human Rights.

We looked at the rights in United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We looked at whether the proposals in the consultation are strong enough to meet those rights.

We focused on Mental Health and Capacity, Independent Living, Restraint and Seclusion, Justice and Social Care.

Local and National groups have been meeting to look at different sections and we will bring this together in a People First (Scotland) national response.

The response will be very long as we have a lot to say! There will also be an Easy Read summary version.

Podcast about Coming Home



Rosie Smith from People First (Scotland) recently contributed to a podcast with the Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland.

The Podcast looked at whether Scottish Government has made progress on it's commitment to 'significantly reduce the number of people living in hospital by March 2024'.



That deadline has been and gone and not enough progress has been made and we are concerned that people are not being given choice and control.

Core and Cluster developments are being built which group people with a learning disability together.

People are not given choice and control over where they live and who they live with.



Mental Health and Capacity law mean that our rights are removed and we can be detained in hospital. This has to change.

We will continue to campaign to stop detention in hospital.

The podcast can be listened to on Spotify if you search for 'Equally valued'.

National Women's Group



The Women's Group meets online and is made up of women from different areas and backgrounds.

The group is friendly, supportive and is a safe space for women with a learning disability to talk about issues that affect us.

We keep things private and confidential.



We have spoken about:

Menopause

Scottish Government consultations

Misogyny and hate crime

Cancer – symptoms, screening etc.

International Women's Day

Women's Health Plan

Gender Based Violence



If anyone wishes to come along to the group, it runs online, every two months, on a Wednesday, from 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

We can support you if you are new to online groups!

Please contact Jo for more information:

jo.kyrtsi@peoplefirstscotland.org

Law and Human Rights Group



The Law and Human Rights Group have spent a lot of time looking at the LDAN Bill consultation.

We have been campaigning for many years for a specific piece of legislation for people with a learning disability.

We welcome the opportunity to consider and respond to the proposals.

However, the consultation document is not as strong as we would have hoped.

We are not convinced that it will bring about the level of change required to fully realise our human rights.

It mentions Supported Decision-Making but only in relation to the Scott Review recommendations.

It does not propose a full system of Supported Decision-Making that we have been calling for.

The consultation makes reference to other work that is happening as well as other legislation in the process of being developed.

We don't think it is good enough to leave important issues to other pieces of work.

We want the LDAN Bill to be bold and radical and we are not convinced that it is.

People First (Scotland) will share our views in a national response.



Supporting Offenders with a Learning Disability



We have been looking at Call Handler guidance. Call handlers are staff who work for the Police and who answer 999 and 101 calls.

The guidance tells call handlers to do 4 important things:

1. Take us seriously and listen to what we have to say

2. Check with us you understand what we tell you

3. Don't use police jargon but use language that we will understand. Ask us if we understand what you tell us.

4. Ask questions in a different way if we don't understand

SOLD members will turn this guidance into short videos.

Police Scotland will use these videos to train call handlers across the country.



Local Area U



The Fife Women's Group meet monthly in St Bryce Church in Kirkcaldy. Susan Burt Chairs the meeting and Vicki Chalmers is the Vice Chair. We have over 15 members and we talk about issues that are important to women.

We have been looking at Scottish Government's 'Equally Safe' plan to end violence against Women and Girls. We talked about how important it is that the plan is heard in local communities.



We all need to work together and the local Police also need to be on board. We need to stop abuse. It is something we will raise at Adult Protection meetings for training.

Some of our experiences as women tell us we are not always safe. We are glad there are national and local conversations going on about this important issue.



Other work we have recently done is representing Women from People First at an event for International Women's Day. The theme this year has been 'Inspire Inclusion'. We highlighted the exclusion that happens for women with a learning disability.

We continue to campaign to stop this from happening.

Update : Fife



People First (Scotland) have a group in the Glenrothes campus of Fife college.

The group have recently looked at the LDAN bill consultation focusing on Relationships and Employment.

Fife Director Michael Stirling has given several presentations to the college sharing information on what People First (Scotland) does. This has drummed up even more interest for the young persons group in the college.



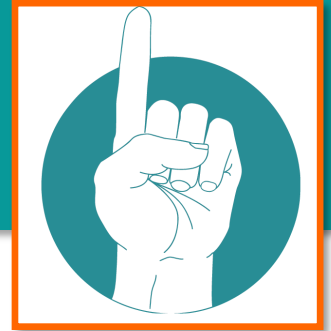
Fife Directors Michael Stirling and David Scott recently attended a 'Moving On' event at the college sharing information about People First local groups. We spoke about the development opportunities as members and directors.



Fife Director Michael Stirling has been invited to sit on Fife Health and Social Care partnerships Project board. The board is looking at transforming the way overnight care is given to people in their homes.

Michael is the only person with lived experience represented on the group. We will keep everyone updated on this work.

Contact Information



If you would like more information about People First groups then please contact the National Office in Edinburgh. You can find the contact details below.

YOU CAN STILL SEND MAIL TO THE OFFICE , WE WILL RECEIVE IT.



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Search 'People First Scotland' on Facebook!

