

Our Powerful Voice Evaluation

Easy Read

About SCLD



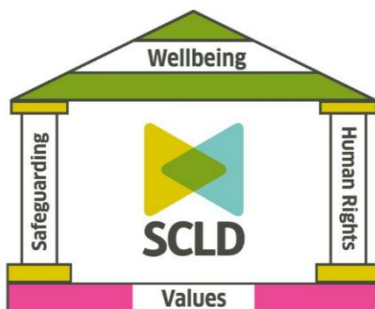
SCLD is a charity.

We stand up for the human rights of people with learning disabilities.



At SCLD we work to change laws and policies and services.

We do this to respect the rights of people with learning disabilities.



SCLD believe in these things:

- Being respectful
- Being inclusive
- Working together
- Trying new ideas

Why SCLD did this evaluation



People First (Scotland) asked SCLD to look at some of their work.



This work was paid for by the Big Lottery as part of the “Our Powerful Voice” project.



People First (Scotland) wanted to know if what they have done made a difference.

What we learned



We met with a staff member from People First (Scotland).



They explained how the funding helped People First (Scotland) do these things:

- They could keep doing important work they started 6 years ago
- They could support a strong self-advocacy movement for people with learning disabilities
- They could make sure that People First (Scotland) is led by its members.





People First (Scotland) has 3 big goals:

1. Help members feel strong and confident.
2. Change how other people see people with learning disabilities.
3. Change laws and policies.



How we did the evaluation



We ran a workshop with 7 members and directors from People First (Scotland).



This happened on the 12th of May 2025 at the People First (Scotland) office.



We asked questions and had group discussions.

We recorded what people said and wrote it all down.



Then we looked for the things that people talked about a lot.



SCLD wrote this report after listening carefully to members of People First (Scotland).

How did people answer the questions?

1. Did People First do what they said they would do?



Yes.

Everyone in the room agreed that People First (Scotland) has done what it said it would do.



Here are three things that People First (Scotland) do well

- They help people with learning disabilities feel strong and confident
- They support people to take on leadership roles
- People First (Scotland) is run by its members



Members gave examples of how members had shown leadership:

- leading local groups
- being on boards
- running campaigns.



Members said changing laws is a big goal that takes a long time.

There are challenges.



Trying to work with the Scottish Government can be a challenge.

Here are some things that People First (Scotland) are still campaigning on:



- the Learning Disability Bill
- removing learning disability from the definition of “mental disorder”
- and other changes in law.

QUOTE:

“See as an organisation, People First pushes to the limit as much as we can, but societal barriers will always exist, whether that the Scottish Government bodies, professional bodies, the general public. So, in every area of life there is always some sort of barrier. But People First will push within what’s possible for us as an organisation to push.”

2. How did we celebrate the work?



People said People First (Scotland) celebrates in different ways:

- By recognising each other's hard work
- By showing pride in each other's achievements
- By supporting each other.



QUOTE:

“I think because we're doing something for society, that's the thing, and also, it's getting our voices out which is really important. We are so proud of ourselves for speaking up and that should be celebrated because it is difficult to speak to the Scottish Government sometimes.”

3. Did we plan anything to get better for next time?

Yes



Everyone agreed that People First (Scotland) always wants to do better

They are working hard to:

- make the organisation more inclusive
- improve access for all members
- and make sure everyone can take part fully



People First (Scotland) members said they want to do these things:

- improve the way they communicate with each other and with others
- reach out to more people locally
- grow the movement and keep it going strong.



4. Did People First (Scotland) make the difference they hoped for?

Yes – but there is still work to do.

Members said:



- being part of People First (Scotland) has changed their lives
- they feel stronger and more confident
- the organisation is truly led by its members.

But they also said:



- change outside the organisation is slow
- the government isn't changing fast enough
- it's frustrating, but the work must go on.

QUOTE:

“The best thing that People First do is supported decision-making because that is - we actually have a framework on supported decision-making and it describes how supported decision-making can work for everybody. People First campaign continuously to strive for that change because guardianship is one of the biggest, biggest barriers that takes away someone's legal human rights and rights in every respect.”

5. What are the plans for the future?



Members said they will work on these things:

- keep campaigning on key issues
- work in both local and national groups.



Members are worried about funding cuts.



Members want to show their impact in powerful ways, such as:

- using stories
- Recordings

Telling their lived experiences rather than just reports.

6. Has this work influenced others?



Yes

People First (Scotland) is seen as a model for how to do things right.



They have influenced:

- Members
- other organisations
- and people across Scotland, the UK and beyond.



They've even taken part in meetings at the United Nations in Geneva.

They've also worked with organisations like **Inclusion London**.

QUOTE:

"I just wanted to say, there is a slogan which I'm sure you'll know: nothing about us without us. And I love the fact that People First promote that as an organisation, because it is promoted. And it's not even just promoted, it's reality within People First"

Conclusion



**People First
(Scotland)**

The work People First (Scotland) does is really important.



**People First
(Scotland)**

We hope this report helps People First (Scotland) in the future.



Thank you to everyone in People First (Scotland) who took part.

