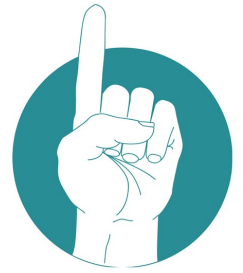


People First (Scotland) Newsletter



Winter 2025

Warm wishes



*from the
Newsletter Group*



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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.

Focus Group on Health



People First (Scotland) were contacted by The People's Health Trust to support a session in Scotland to explore the views and experiences of people with a learning disability in relation to mental and physical health.

Sessions were also held in other parts of the UK. In our session, we discussed the 'Building Blocks of Health' which are:

- Social Connections
- Community
- Jobs and Money
- Where you live
- Housing
- Education and Skills



We talked about the fact that people with a learning disability often have some or all of these Building Blocks missing in life. Or, we do not have equal access to them.



Members shared our lived experience of having to fight for these things and the impact this has on health and wellbeing.

The People's Health Trust will gather all the experiences and evidence shared at the different sessions across the UK. This will help them to develop a campaign about the health inequalities experienced by people with a learning disability.

The Law and Hum



In November, we met with the Adults with Incapacity team in Scottish Government. There have been a lot of staff changes and this was the first time we were meeting with the new team.

The Adults with Incapacity team are responsible for Guardianship.



We showed them our film about Supported Decision Making. They said it was a really useful resource that they would be keen to use in their work and share more widely.



We asked them to share an update on what work is happening on Capacity Law Reform. We said that we responded to consultation on Amendments to the Adults with Incapacity Act and we were surprised when Scottish Government announced they were not going ahead with changes to the Act.

We also asked them about the previous commitment to 'review existing Supported Decision Making practices and decide whether a national framework or approach is needed by the end of 2024'

Human Rights Group



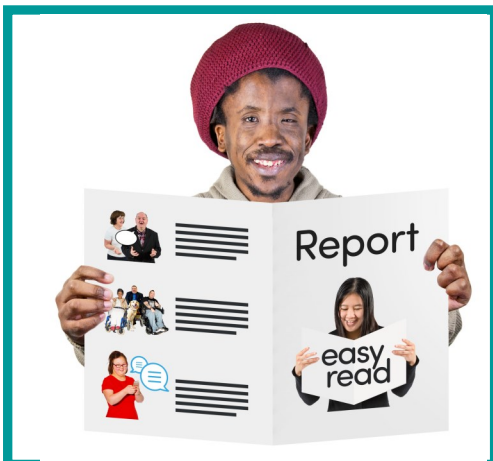
We said at the time that we do not think there is much Supported Decision Making happening for people with a learning disability in Scotland.

They said, 'Ministers have committed to a more collaborative approach moving forward to develop the changes required to bring Adults with Incapacity legislation in line with human rights law'.



They have set up an expert working group to look at 4 topics, including Supported Decision Making.

They have also asked lawyers to look at how Supported Decision Making laws are working in other countries.



They said they would like to involve us in this work in the new year. We gave them information about how to make the process accessible for us.

We said we have lots to offer them because we have already done a lot of work on Supported Decision Making. We also shared some other resources that we have made about Supported Decision Making.

Supporting Offenders with a L



SOLD has been working on a Framework to support the Justice parts of the Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill.

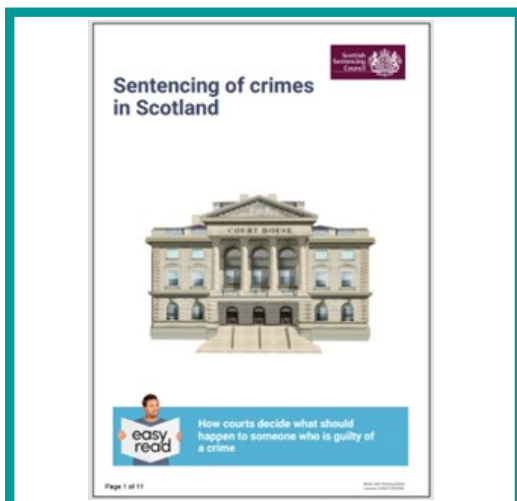
A Framework is like a Plan. It has set of helpful rules and ideas to guide people.

The Framework has 6 important sections:

- **What the Framework is**
- **Identifying people with learning disabilities or communication needs early**
- **Using inclusive communication**
- **Helping people take part properly**
- **Support in the community**
- **What happens next**



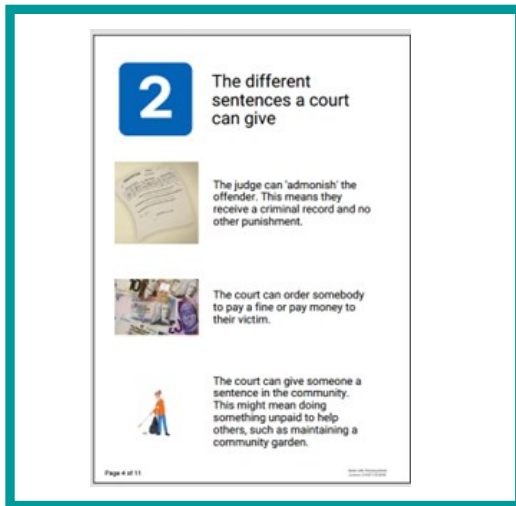
We have made easy-read scripts for each section.



In January, we will use these scripts to make professional videos to share our work with justice professionals and others.

SOLD has done very well in its work with the Scottish Sentencing Council. In April this year, the Sentencing Council asked us to look at their Easy Read guide called “Sentencing in Scotland.”

Learning Disability (SOLD)



The guide explains what a sentence is and how different crimes get different sentences.

The guide also talks about how the Sentencing Council works.

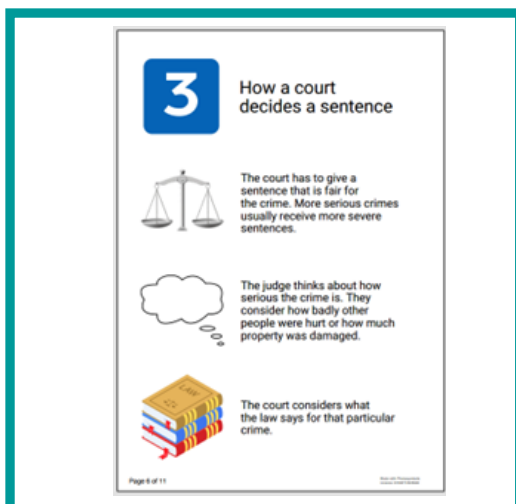
We had three meetings to review the guide. We looked at everything very carefully.

We made lots of comments and suggested many changes to the words, pictures, and tone.

At first, we were not sure if the Sentencing Council would agree to our changes.

Some of our points needed to be checked with their lawyers.

But the Sentencing Council has now replied and agreed with what we suggested.



They said:

- our comments were very helpful
 - we put a lot of careful work into the review
 - they found our ideas and lived experience very useful
 - they were grateful for the time and attention we gave
- the guide is now much better because of SOLD's help



Parent's Group



The Parent's Group have been meeting with Andy Miller from the Scottish Commission for Learning Disabilities to update the Scottish Good Practice Guidelines for Supporting Parents with a Learning Disability.

We highlighted the following:

- the need for more resources to support parents in the early stages of pregnancy.
- Accessible information for parents.
- Training for Health and Social Care professionals, delivered by parents with a learning disability.



Andy from SCLD is also meeting with professionals to get their views on how to update the guidelines.

The recent report published by the Scottish Learning Disability Observatory with input from People First (Scotland), has shown the huge gaps in support to parents across Scotland.



We recently took part in a photography project at Strathclyde University. Group members held an event where they displayed some pictures which detailed their lives as parents who have a learning disability. There were around 80 Social Work students in attendance. The group are discussing the possibility of another event.

Midlothian



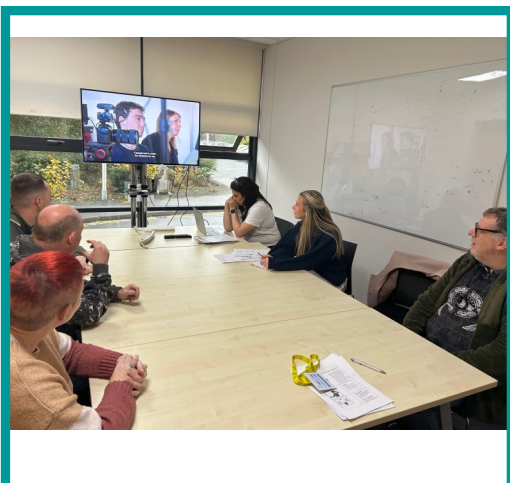
Members in Midlothian have spent time with service managers, a planning officer and a social work student in Midlothian Council, helping to create new guidelines for people who are under corporate appointeeship.

We came together in three sessions to solve problems on how to give people information about how corporate appointeeship works, how to make ordering things easier and how to tell people how much money they have.



An Easy Read information sheet has been created by members and staff, and once this has been approved, it will be given to people to help them understand what corporate appointeeship is.

Members shared People First Scotland's framework and video around Supported Decision Making during these sessions to help them understand how they should be including people with learning disabilities in making decisions about their own lives.



The council will also be updating their processes, creating guidance and information packs, and giving social workers more training on how to support people to make decisions about their money.

University Teaching



This autumn, members delivered three lectures to students at the University of Edinburgh. Parents' group members Susan and Shirleyann, presented in person to Social Work students. We spoke about the challenges for parents with learning disabilities and how we can be better supported to raise our children.



Edinburgh Directors Ivan and Gregor, presented in person to Social Work students, about the importance of service user involvement and what makes a good social worker. Law and Human Rights Group members Maggie and Rosie, also presented online to Clinical Psychology students. We spoke about Guardianship and Supported Decision-making.

Edinburgh



In September, members took part in the Learning Disability week event in Edinburgh. We had a stall and spoke to people about our work. We want to spread awareness of how important it is to protect collective advocacy. We want to have our voices heard locally and nationally.

Glasgow



Glasgow members, who have been involved with the training program at Strathclyde University, recently had a “meet and greet” with first year social work students. This was to introduce ourselves and discuss our involvement with them throughout their time at university.

Members also took part in a workshop with third year students where we shared experiences of social work involvement in our personal lives.



Two Glasgow members also took part in the “Fit to practice” role play interviews with master's students, which allows them the opportunity to experience a real-life practice scenario.

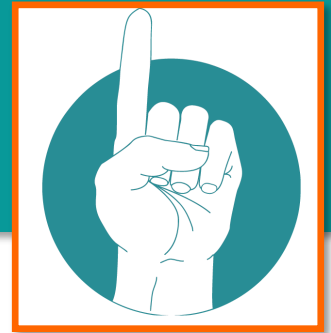
Members from Fortune works group and the Glasgow men’s group invited a representative from Police Scotland to come and talk with members about keeping safe.



At both sessions, members were informed about potential scams and fraud techniques where they could find themselves as targets.

We talked about what to look out for and how to prevent crimes from happening. We also talked about the importance of reporting any suspicious activity to the Police.

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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