

Rights. Equality. Inclusion.

A 12 Point Plan for Change



The 2026 Scottish Parliament election offers an opportunity to address the profound inequalities that people with learning disabilities* continue to experience from health to housing, education, employment, relationships and participation in the community.

These inequalities are not inevitable. They result from systems, policies, behaviours and attitudes that do not yet fully recognise people with learning disabilities as equal citizens.

With the right commitments, long-term investment and meaningful collaboration with people with learning disabilities, Scotland can build a fairer, more inclusive Scotland where everyone can thrive.

SCLD's 12 point plan for change asks the next Scottish Government to:

1

Bring forward a Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill (the LDAN Bill) and strengthen accountability structures.

2

Continue to support and invest in the implementation of Annual Health Checks to ensure consistent, high-quality delivery across all health boards.

3

Set a clear timetable for reforming mental health and capacity law and invest in independent advocacy provision to support decision making.

4

Create a robust process for seeking redress to increase accountability for people with learning disabilities who are stuck in hospital.

*People with learning disabilities are a diverse group with many different identities, interests and support needs. Many people with learning disabilities also have a diagnosis of autism and some may identify as neurodivergent. SCLD is working with people with learning disabilities and partner organisations to advance and champion the rights of individuals across the 'LDAN' community.

5

Incorporate the UNCRPD and ICESCR rights into Scots law.

6

Lead a programme of reform to deliver independent living in line with the UNCRPD and invest in community-based housing, support and Positive Behaviour Support (PBS).

7

Ensure that work to streamline digital systems across health and social care supports better monitoring and publication of outcomes for people with learning disabilities.

8

Reform social care eligibility criteria and remove non-residential care charges to promote choice, dignity and control.

9

Establish an accreditation scheme for employers which requires organisations that receive public funding to be learning disability inclusive.

10

Ensure digital innovations in the public sector follow the principles of inclusive design and promote resources that support people with learning disabilities to independently use technology.

11

Continue to fund Delivering Equally Safe to ensure women and girls with learning disabilities can access education, support, and justice for gender-based violence.

12

Implement holistic and inclusive family support for any family that needs it, as originally committed to in The Promise.

SCLD is grateful to the following organisations that support the principles of this 12 Point Plan:

