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| **This e-newsletter from the Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory brings you all the exciting news on the latest work of the team and on events that are coming up that may be of interest to you.** |

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| **Welcome**Welcome to the summer 2019 edition of the Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory newsletter, and my first as Director. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Cooper, the Observatory’s founding Director, for the excellent work she has done throughout her career and for her commitment to improving the health of people with learning disabilities.  Since it was established in 2015 the Observatory has developed an impressive portfolio of research that enables us to ask new questions about the health and care of people with learning disabilities in Scotland.The launch of the new Keys to life implementation plan in March 2019 underscores the continued role of the Observatory in transforming the lives of people with learning disabilities through research and translation of evidence into policy and practice.I am really looking forward to working with the Observatory team and our partners across the sector, including people with learning disabilities and their families, to build on these strong foundations and ensure that the Observatory’s research impacts positively on the lives of people with learning disabilities.Professor Craig Melville  |

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| **Unlocking futures for people with learning disabilities**On the 13th of March this year the Scottish Government published a new [implementation framework](https://sldo.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e19d32571f88cdf78a2d77872&id=832a693111&e=222954a572) outlining priorities for action over the next 2 years. This new framework has been more explicitly aligned to broader policy priorities, at a national and local level, and focuses on all life stages. Through a process of active engagement with stakeholders, including people with learning disabilities and their families, four themes emerged: Wellbeing; Living; Working; and Learning. As a strategic delivery partner for the strategy the Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory will continue to work closely with stakeholders across policy and practice to ensure that we provide the high quality evidence that should underpin action to address the inequalities that people with learning disabilities experience.   |

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| **Observatory Conference**On 14th May 2019 we held our third national conference 'Building Healthy Communities' at COSLA Conference Centre, Edinburgh. We were delighted that Ms Clare Haughey, Minister for Mental Health, Scottish Government joined us to give the opening speech and to start off a morning session full of interesting presentations.  The afternoon session allowed all delegates the opportunity to attend two workshops on topics of their choice.The conference was a huge success with lots of positive feedback from delegates, particularly for our two 'stars of the show' Skye and Meg from The Usual Place; a community cafe in Dumfries which provides opportunities for young people with additional support needs.  The girls gave moving talks about their own journeys and the positive impact that their work experience at the cafe has had on their lives.  Skye and Meg are pictured here with Clare Haughey and Angela Henderson, our Deputy Director. Our evaluation report for the conference can be viewed [here](https://sldo.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e19d32571f88cdf78a2d77872&id=223fe154dc&e=222954a572) |

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| **IASSIDD World Congress**Glasgow is hosting the World Congress of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IASSIDD), on 6th - 9th August 2019 – and we are taking part!It is expected that over 1,200 participants will attend, from across health and social care, education, policy makers, academics and third sector organisations, people with intellectual disabilities and carers.Staff from the Observatory will be presenting over the 4 days of the congress, so if you are attending please come along and listen to our latest findings on intellectual disabilities research in Scotland.  A programme of the Observatory presentations can be found [here](https://sldo.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e19d32571f88cdf78a2d77872&id=79758aebc7&e=222954a572). |

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| **Research Voices project**Many people with learning disabilities have worse health than other people, and their health needs can be more complicated. Health researchers want to make health and health care better for people with learning disabilities by finding out more about why they have worse health outcomes, and how to help.However, many people with learning disabilities face barriers to being involved in health research. For good research to be done, we need more involvement from people with learning disabilities, including people with profound and multiple learning disabilities.The Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory has funding from the Wellcome Trust to work with people with learning disabilities to include their voices in health research. As a part of this project, we will be hosting a [Citizens’ Jury](https://sldo.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e19d32571f88cdf78a2d77872&id=0fb82e1bb4&e=222954a572) for people with learning disabilities. This group will listen to evidence from witnesses given in an accessible way and have a chance to have an informed discussion before making recommendations on health research. We are working in partnership with Talking Mats on this project to make sure that we put accessible communication at the centre of our approach.We have spent the last 3 months reaching out to individuals, groups and organisations to meet people with learning disabilities who might want to be involved. We have now selected 12 members for our Citizens’ Jury, and we feel we have a good representation of sex, age and background.Our Citizens’ Jury will take place in November 2019 and December 2019. But between July and November, we will be hosting workshops for our jury members to support them to get to know each other, develop their skills and come up with a question/s to focus on in the Citizens’ Jury.We hosted our first Research Voices workshop in July and we focused on building relationships with jurors. We also had some great discussions about what citizenship really means and what we envision when we think about a ‘jury’.Learning from this process will be updated on the [Research Voices Blog](https://sldo.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e19d32571f88cdf78a2d77872&id=68a12fe286&e=222954a572) |

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| **Public Engagement**The SLDO Team were delighted to return to Glasgow Science Centre’s Curiosity Live event for families and schools, held on 14th March 2019. The event brought together researchers in Science, Technology Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) to share the exciting research happening in Glasgow across universities and industry. Observatory team members Rhiann McLean and Gillian Smith headed to the Science Centre to introduce the important work being undertaken at the Observatory to school pupils and the public.  |

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| [**Read about it here**](https://sldo.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e19d32571f88cdf78a2d77872&id=58594c88ec&e=222954a572)  |

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| **Reproductive health**‘Our Bodies, Our Rights’: Women with Learning Disabilities experiences of reproductive health and wellbeing, a blog by Dr Phillippa Wiseman.The ‘[Our Bodies, Our Rights](https://sldo.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e19d32571f88cdf78a2d77872&id=1dce235fcd&e=222954a572)’ project was undertaken to address the invisibility of disabled women’s reproductive rights and wellbeing, including those with learning disabilities. The Observatory formed a part of the advisory board as well as carrying out collaborative research with lead organisation, Engender Scotland. Women with learning disabilities disproportionately experience reproductive health and social inequalities compared to other women. They experience significant barriers to parenting, are much more likely to be excluded from reproductive and relationship health education, and are disproportionately likely to experience intimate partner and gender-based violence.  It was imperative to have targeted research that ensured the voices of women with learning disabilities were heard.    |

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| [**Read our blog here**](https://sldo.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e19d32571f88cdf78a2d77872&id=0f09588120&e=222954a572)  |

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| **SLDO staff updates**We are delighted to announce that Marian Okon, Research Assistant here at the Observatory has given birth to a beautiful little girl named Sublime Ifechukwude Biose.   |

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| Congratulations to Dr Deborah Kinnear who has a new role within the University of Glasgow as Senior Lecturer in Intellectual Disabilities.  All the team at SLDO are looking forward to working with Deborah in her new role.   |

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| **Events**[IASSID World Congress](https://sldo.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e19d32571f88cdf78a2d77872&id=26ca74ee42&e=222954a572)Glasgow, 6th - 9th August 2019[We are one: CitizenFEST](https://sldo.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e19d32571f88cdf78a2d77872&id=d419b25823&e=222954a572)Glasgow's festival of Citizenship 2019Glasgow, 9-11th August 2019 [Seattle Club annual conference](https://sldo.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e19d32571f88cdf78a2d77872&id=fc2ffe9dd0&e=222954a572)University College London (UCL) 16th - 17th December 2019  |

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| **Alternative formats**We have easy read versions of our projects on our website [here](https://sldo.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e19d32571f88cdf78a2d77872&id=55ac42a0c3&e=222954a572)If you require documents in an alternative format such as hard copy or easy read, please contact us at sldo-info@glasgow.ac.uk or call us on 0141 211 3908  **Publications**We have seen the publication of a number of papers. To view all our publications, please click on the button below.  |

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| [**Publications**](https://sldo.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e19d32571f88cdf78a2d77872&id=a2e5a58136&e=222954a572)  |

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