



Connecting evidence, policy and practice



Message from Professor Sally-Ann Cooper, the Director.

I hope you like our first newsletter.



People with learning disabilities have some of the poorest health of any group in Scotland.



This is unfair.



The Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory will find out about the health of people with learning disabilities and people with autism.



This will help people to make health and health care better for people with learning disabilities and people with autism.



Please tell us what you think.



Message from Angela Henderson, the Deputy Director.



The Keys to Life says that the human rights of people with learning disabilities and people with autism are very important.



Human Rights law says that people with learning disabilities and people with autism should be included in decisions about their health and their life.



We will talk to people with learning disabilities and people with autism about the Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory.



We will talk to people who do different jobs to support people with learning disabilities and people with autism.



We want the Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory to help to improve the health of people with learning disabilities and people with autism.

Meet the Team



Deborah Kinnear works as a Research Fellow.
Her research looks at different areas:

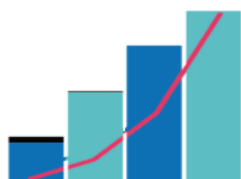
These are:

- Self-directed support
- Oral Health
- Carers' Health



Myrthe Jacobs works as a Research Associate.

Her research is about children with learning disabilities.
Myrthe wants to know about the health of children with learning disabilities.



She is also finding out how many children with learning disabilities and autism there are in Scotland.



Kirsty Wright is a researcher.

Her project looks at why people with learning disabilities go to the hospital.



She will write a report about why and how often people with learning disabilities go to hospital.

Meet the Team



Lisa O'Leary works as a Researcher.

She is collecting information about the deaths of people with learning disabilities.



Lisa is also finding out at what age people with learning disabilities die.



Phillippa Wiseman is a Researcher.



She wants to know more about hate crime targeted at people with learning disabilities.



She would like to find out how hate crime affects the health of people with learning disabilities.



Heather Green is an Administrative Assistant.

She is the person to contact if you need to talk to the team.



Heather is helping to make sure our information is accessible to everyone.

Meet the Team



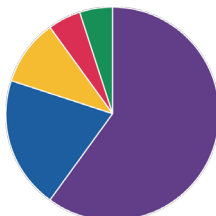
Ewelina Rydzewska works as a Research Associate.

Her research is about the health of people with autism.



She is looking at information on people who have autism from the count of all people who live in Scotland.

This count is called Scotland's Census.



She is also putting some information from the 2011 Census into graphs and charts.



Laura Hughes-McCormack works as a Research Assistant

She is working on a project looking at health information for people with learning disabilities in Scotland.

The project looks at why people with learning disabilities go to the doctor.



She will also look at the care provided by doctors and nurses.

Who's Who? Linda Allan

Scottish Government

Linda Allan is a professional advisor for the Learning Disability Policy Team at the Scottish Government. We asked Linda to tell us a little bit about herself.

1. Describe yourself in three words



Conscientious. This means that I always try to do my best and work hard.

Considerate. I always try to think about peoples' feelings.

Knowledgeable. I have worked with people with learning disabilities for a long time. I have learned a lot of things.

2. Could you tell us a bit about your role?



I am the professional advisor to the learning disabilities policy team at the Scottish Government.

I work with the Scottish Government. My job is to give advice on learning disabilities.

I work with lots of different people in this job.

I work with:

- People with learning disabilities and families.
- Policy makers.
- People who work in health and social care.

I still work 1 day a week in the NHS in Glasgow as the Nurse Consultant for Learning Disabilities.

3. How did you get into this area of work?



When I was 18 I went on holiday and met some people with learning disabilities.

We had a great holiday together and I wanted to work with people with learning disabilities.

Who's Who? Linda Allan



I applied to be a nurse at this time. I have worked as a nurse for all my adult life.

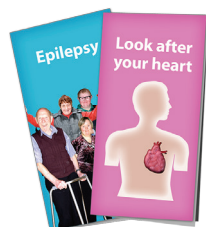
My job as Nurse Consultant means I do 4 things:

- Making services for people with learning disabilities better.
- Finding out about what is really important for people with learning disabilities.
- Making sure I have really good knowledge about learning disabilities.
- Helping people at the Government.



4. Why did you want to work in this area?

I want to share what I know about learning disabilities. I want my work to have a positive impact on the lives of people with learning disabilities.



5. What is the most rewarding aspect of your career so far?

I set up the health screening programme in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. Lots of people thought this was a good idea. This has made a big difference to the health of people with learning disabilities. Lots of GPs think it is a good idea too.



A few years ago I received a special award from the University. I was given a special title. This was an "honorary professor"

6. What is the best advice given to you in your career?

Never give up!



7. What one thing do you think has the potential to make the biggest difference to the health of people with learning disabilities?

We need more information about the lives of people with learning disabilities in Scotland.

SLDO Events: Meeting the Good Life Group



On the 6th of May 2015 we met The Good Life Group.



The Good Life Group told us that they give training to doctors, nurses, dentists and social care staff.



The Good Life Group won the COSLA Chair's Award for Excellence in Community Service in 2010.

We asked the group what kind of things help people with learning disabilities to be healthy.

The group said that lots of things helped them to keep healthy. Some of the things they said were:



- Healthy eating



- Good support



- Exercise



- Oral health

We also asked about good experiences the group had of health & healthcare.



The group said they had good experiences. They said that these things were important for good health care:



- Accessible information.
- Good support.
- Being informed and being able to make decisions.

We also wanted to know if the group had any experiences that were not so good.

The group said sometimes their experiences weren't good.
This happened when:



- Too much jargon was used.
- When instructions were too complicated.
For example, in bowel screening.
- When they weren't given enough information about what was happening to them.

We asked what the group thought was most important to making health and health care better for people with learning disabilities.



The group said:



1. Access to good quality **support**.
2. **Being involved** in decisions at all stages of their own health.
3. **Accessible information** to ensure a clear understanding of what is happening.

Events of Interest

The keys to life

The Scottish Government - The Keys to Life Calendar of Events 2015

Web link: keystolife.info



Learning Disability Awareness Week

15th – 21st June 2015

Web link: www.sclld.org.uk



Cornerstone is hosting an Alternative Games fun day for the people they support!



When?

Wednesday 22nd July



What time is it?

11am -3pm

Where is it?

East End Healthy Living Centre
183 Crownpoint Road
Glasgow G40 2AL



There will be a huge variety of activities on offer. The event is free but places are limited. To reserve your spot or to volunteer on the day, please call **Sharon Irvine** on **0141 551 8954**.

Your views are important to us.

Please use this page to tell us what you think the priorities of the Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory should be.



If you would like to keep updated about the Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory, **please sign up for our newsletter here.**

Name	
Address	
Email Address	
Telephone Number	

☐

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Please add my name to your database

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We will store your information safely and make sure that we follow the rules of the Data Protection Act 1998. Please get in touch with us at any time if you want us to stop sending you information about the Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory. Please return any comments and contact details to:

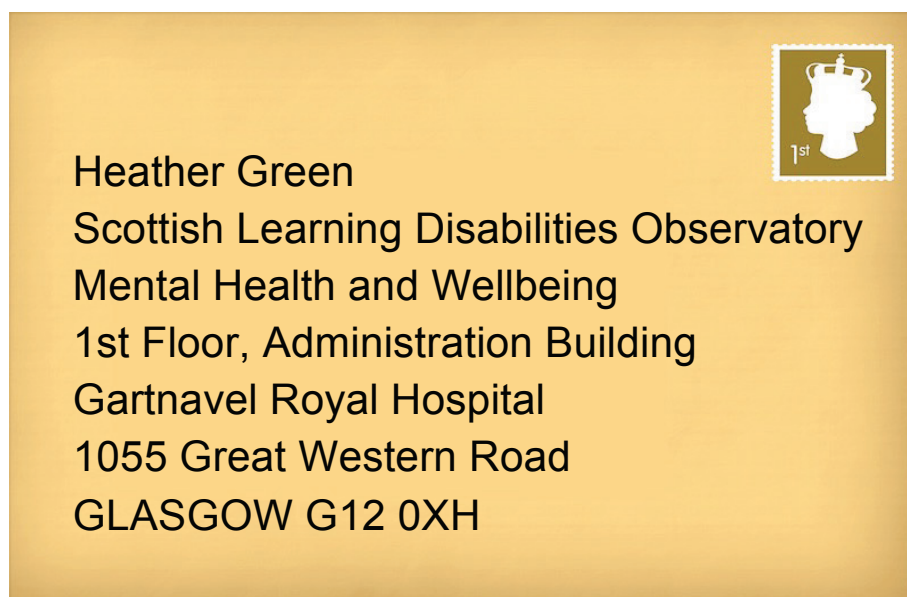
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Get Involved

Please return any comments and contact details
in a stamped addressed envelope to:



You can also email Heather at:
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University
of Glasgow

