

Notes from the Clackmannanshire Carers' Voice Meeting
Wednesday 28th May 2025
Hawkhill Community Centre, Alloa

Present: (carers and former carers) Eugene Greasley, Margaret Daniels, Audrey Cassels, Bridget Buchan, Alice Mathews, Elizabeth Aitken, Edward Lafferty, Gina Witty, Andy Witty, Elizabeth Ramsay, Elizabeth Murdoch, June Anderson & John McClumpha

(professionals) Cllr. Fiona Law

(Carers Centre staff) Nicola Weedon & Caroline Quinn

Apologies: (carers) Lesley MacCulloch, Lorraine Sinclair
(professionals) Jessie Anne Malcolm (NHS FV), Hazel Chalk (C&S H&SCP), Lesley Fulford (C&S H&SCP)

Nicola Weedon welcomed everyone to the meeting, commenting on the good turnout.

New Carer Representative to Integrated Joint Board

Nicola outlined the role of the Integration Joint Board (IJB) of the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health & Social Care Partnership (C&S H&SCP): a statutory body responsible for the strategic planning and oversight of health and social care services within Clackmannanshire & Stirling. IJBs aim to improve the quality and sustainability of care services by integrating health and social care functions, allowing for more coordinated and efficient service delivery. Cllr Law told us that she is a member of the IJB. Nicola explained that the role of an IJB Carer Rep is to represent the perspectives and experiences of the carers within the local community to the IJB.

Carer Andy Witty was introduced to the attendees and he offered some insight as to why he would be interested in taking on the role of representative. He gave some personal background and offered a summary of what he had already submitted in his statement to support his candidacy.

There was a vote cast and it came back unanimous for Andy to be the newly appointed Carer Representative. Nicola and Andy agreed that she would let Lesley Fulford at the H&SCP know, and that they would meet up to further discuss the role.

Involvement opportunities

Nicola outlined some currently opportunities for carers to comment on strategic plans and on a review of adaptations.

Forth Valley Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategic Plan

A draft plan currently is undergoing consultation, aimed at improving mental health and wellbeing in the region. It focusses on

- Prevention: addressing the root causes of poor mental health and preventing issues from arising or worsening.
- Promotion: encouraging positive mental health in communities while tackling stigma and discrimination.
- Provision; ensuring access to the right care and support at the right time, in the right place, with a person-centred approach.

A few carers mentioned that they had had issues when they tried to complete the consultation online. Nicola said she would address this with Lesley Fulford at the H&SCP.

Housing Adaptations Review

Katy McBride (Housing, Health and Social Work Research and Engagement Officer, Clackmannanshire & Stirling Health & Social Care Partnership) is asking for lived experience of accessing housing adaptations in Clackmannanshire. She wants to hear from people who live in Local Authority housing, Housing Association properties, private rentals and from owner occupiers.

- Did you contact Social Work to ask for an assessment by an OT?
- If not, why not?
- If so, how long did you wait?
- Were you kept informed during the process?
- What was the outcome?
- Do you have any comments, criticisms or commendations?
- What improvements would you like to see?

Nicola shared ways which carers could respond to the review which has a closing date of 27 June 2025.

NHS Forth Valley's draft Population Health and Care Strategy

A draft NHS Forth Valley Population Health and Care Strategy 2025-2035 has been produced which sets out our vision to improve the health and wellbeing of local people

across Forth Valley over the next 10 years. The draft Strategy sets out the following key ambitions:

- To enable the population of Forth Valley to live longer healthier happier lives, by investing in prevention and providing support to people who are ill at an earlier stage.
- To provide more health services and support in local communities, to make it easier for people to access the care you may require.
- To look at how we can improve everyone's health and wellbeing, not just the patients we are currently seeing.
- To work with partner organisations to tackle some of the wider issues which affect health and wellbeing
- To make the best use of the resources we have available to ensure we deliver the best value

Nicola shared ways to respond to the strategy, closing date 15 June 2025

Carers Centre Update

Elizabeth (Chair of the Board of Central Carers Association which runs Falkirk & Clackmannanshire Carers Centre) informed the meeting that C&S H&SCP plan to go ahead with a tender process to procure a single delivery partner for Carers Centre support across Clackmannanshire and Stirling. Both Carers Centres have informed the H&SCP of their intention to bid for the tender. There followed a discussion about the procurement process, timing, transparency, the budget gap, and freedom of information.

AOB

Cllr Fiona Law took an interest in individual carer issues and said that she was happy to be contacted by carers with any issues relating to Clackmannanshire Council. Her contact details are on the Clacks Council website: [Councillor Fiona Law](#).

Meeting ended 12 noon