

Notes from the Clackmannanshire Carers' Voice Meeting

Thursday 13 November 2025

Hawkhill Community Centre, Alloa

- Present:** (carers and former carers) Eugene Greasley, Margaret Daniels, Andy Witty (IJB carer representative), Elizabeth Ramsay, Alasdair Hope, Susan McRobbie, Wullie McRobbie
(professionals) Jessie-Anne Malcolm, NHS FV, Gemma Pritchard Woollett, CTSi (Carers Centre staff) Nicola Weedon & Amanda Rutherford
- Apologies:** (carers) Audrey Cassels, Brenda Simm, Marianne McNeil
(Professionals) Wullie Bell, CAB, Hazel Chalk, C&S H&SCP, Jennifer Kennedy C&S H&SCP

Agenda

Welcome and introductions

IJB Carer Rep Update

Care Reform Bill overview

“What a break means to you” consultation and short breaks Q&A

NHS/H&SCP/3rd sector updates

Carers Centre update

Nicola Weedon

Andy Witty

Nicola Weedon

Kirsten Harrower

Nicola Weedon &

Elizabeth Ramsay

Carers' Issues/Concerns

AOB

Nicola welcomed carers and professionals to the meeting, doing necessary introductions and covering housekeeping.

Integration Joint Board (IJB) Carer Representative Update - Andy Witty

Andy told us that he had observed two IJB meetings before he was officially ratified as Clackmannanshire Carer Representative. This means he is now allowed to speak at meetings. Andy told us that the Interim Chief of the IJB, Joanne McDonald, was leaving her post, and the Chief Financial Officer had already left meaning that the Health & Social Care Partnership would be recruiting for new leadership. [Update: Dr Jennifer Borthwick is now Interim Chief Executive, and Amy McDonald Interim Chief Finance officer.] As always, the focus at the last IJB meeting was on the budget with the Health & Social Care Partnership (H&SCP) still trying to find savings. So far he has felt well supported by H&SCP staff, but feels the jury is still out on whether carer and user reps have enough input or whether there is a degree of tokenism.

Andy spoke about the strategic plan which is available for comments until 11 January 2026. He expressed concern about the language, e.g. “need to consider budget”, “status quo is financially unsustainable”, “prioritisation is required”, all pointing to reductions in services.

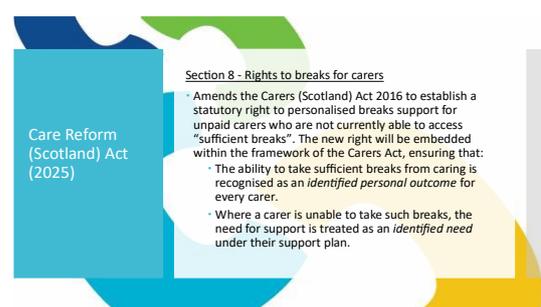
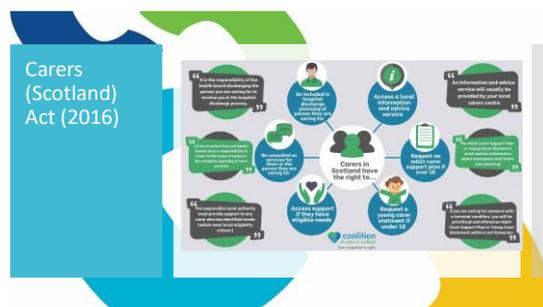
Andy has made a video which will be on the Carers Centre website. Nicola showed the video and carers expressed their approval. Andy said that as Carer Rep he is looking for more carer feedback and is happy to be contacted (please email the Carers Centre centre@centralcarers.co.uk marking the email for the attention of Andy Witty). He can share carers’ lived experiences at meetings to demonstrate how decisions made at strategic level impact on carers’ and service users’ lives.

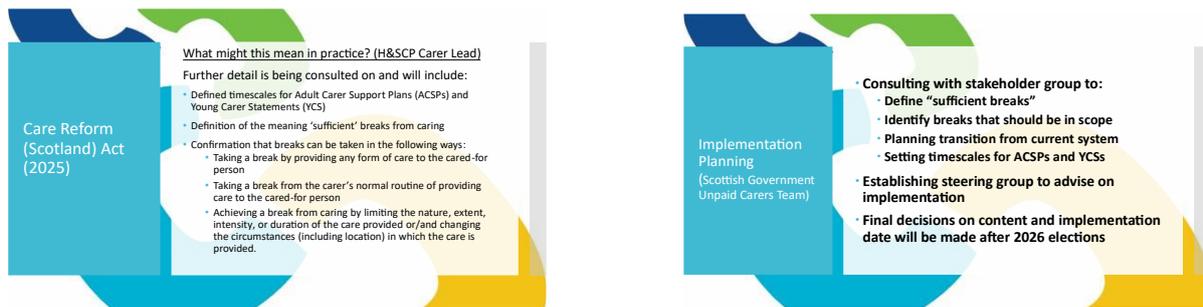
He also told us that he is a member of the Self-Directed Support Lived Experience panel. There was a question about the make up of the panel – Andy told us it is currently growing organically from people engaging with the H&SCP. Emma Mitchell is the H&SCP Self-Directed Support Lead, there is another professional from Stirling and an administrator to take minutes. There are currently four lived-experience members: a disabled adult and their carer, an older person receiving care, and Andy who is carer for his disabled adult daughter. They are all keen to have more members so that the group can be fully representative of different experiences. A former carer mentioned the importance of making sure that Clackmannanshire voices are heard on groups and panels so there is not a Stirling bias.

Jessie-Anne Malcolm mentioned the transport issues people encounter when trying to take part. Gemma Pritchard-Woollett let the meeting know that representatives from Clackmannanshire Council had visited the Access Panel which led to Gemma circulating a survey (previously shared by the Carers Centre) about accessible transport which received 50 responses. She is currently collating these and will submit them to the council. Gemma also let us know that Dial-A-Journey’s funding will be reviewed at the end of the financial year (March 2026).

Care Reform Bill – Nicola Weedon

Nicola spoke about the proposed changes to the Carers (Scotland) Act (2026) in the Care Reform (Scotland) Act (2025). Slides below:





Nicola agreed that there is a lot of uncertainty about how this may be implemented in future and agreed to keep the Voice up-to-date with any developments.

Short Breaks– Kirsten Harrower

Kirsten highlighted current Carers Centre options for carer breaks:

- Creative Breaks grants
- Respite (breaks donated by local hospitality providers)
- Short Breaks activities
- Better Breaks (for parent carers and their children)

She encouraged carers to contact the centre if they would like to find out more about any of these.

Kirsten then led a discussion about “what does a short break mean to you?” This also led to a discussion about disability / carer discounts for various attractions. Kirsten also asked carers to share any words of encouragement they would have for someone just becoming a carer.

Carers Centre Update

Nicola and Elizabeth updated attendees regarding the lack of progress on re-commissioning of carer support services across Clackmannanshire and Stirling and agreed that they would provide another update at the next Voice meeting.

Carer Issues / AOB

Carer shared their experience of requesting support for their adult daughter with Learning Disability and the lack of response from Social Work. Andy Witty thanked them for raising this and said he can highlight this at future IJB / User Panel meetings. He encouraged other carers to share their experiences.

Nicola asked the meeting whether they would be willing to have the next Voice meeting online on Zoom. A carer who is unable to leave their cared-for person had asked if this was possible. The consensus at the meeting was that they were not keen to do this as they particularly enjoyed the discussions that took place when the meeting was in person. Nicola thanked them for their feedback.

Nicola closed the meeting at 12 noon and thanked everyone for coming along.