

The Alliance Conference

SDWG Member Kenny Moffat attended and presented at the Alliance Health and Social Care Annual Conference in Glasgow on the 1 May. The Alliance is the national third sector intermediary for a range of health and social care organisations and a strategic partner of the Scottish Government. They have over 3600 national and local third sector organisations and associates in the statutory and private sectors.

“The Alliance Vision is for a Scotland where people of all ages who are disabled or living with long term conditions and unpaid carers have a strong voice and enjoy the right to live well, as equal and active citizens, free from discrimination, with support and services that put them at the centre.”

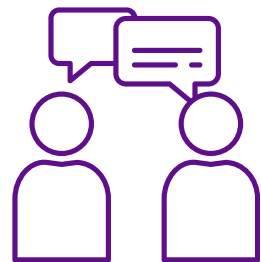


Kenny Moffat

The theme of the conference covered three main areas:

- Our Voice – Empowering health and social care.
- Our Rights – Shaping a more equitable future for health and social care.
- Our Future – Scotland needs radical thinking and a new vision for long term care.

“An excellent forum for discussion and ensuring that lived experience is part of any conversation regarding health & social care and the future of long term care.” - Kenny



The morning kicked off with a keynote speech from Neil Gray, Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care, Neil spoke about the challenges faced by people and his hopes for the National Care Service to support people in their own communities, Human Rights into Scottish Law and how Brexit has had a impact on the economy and society.

There were two main panel discussions - the first was about strengthening our communities through partnership working and the second, which Kenny was part of, was themed around "A new vision for long term care". Kenny shared his experiences of receiving a dementia diagnosis and spoke about how Self-directed Support is his long term care. The panel included the Rt Hon Henry McLeish, who chairs the Alzheimer Scotland Long Term Care Commission, of which Kenny is a member. The Commission will launch their report later this month.



Kenny with Henry McLeish

Kenny took part in workshops that included people with lived experiences of disability and long term conditions as well as unpaid carers. These were interactive and allowed attendees opportunities to share knowledge and experiences around health and social care supports and services, hear about challenges faced around stigma and discuss how we can keep research person centred. There were networking opportunities and information stands sharing the work of third sector organisations across Scotland.

Both campaigning groups, the Scottish Dementia Working Group (SDWG) and the National Dementia Carers Action Network (NDCAN) strive to ensure that dementia policy and practice in Scotland is delivered. Sharing experiences and speaking at events and conferences ensures that dementia has a seat at the table and people with dementia and carers have a voice.