



**Interim Findings:**

**Scottish Community Link Worker  
Network – CLW Programme Mapping**

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# Research Context and Aims

- What do we already know?
- The range of CLW programmes:
  - How are they designed?
  - How are they delivered?
  - How are they evaluated?
- Draw out learning:
  - Why are programmes implemented this way?
  - What can we learn?



# Methods

- Review of published information about link worker programmes in Scotland.
- Online survey of CLWs.
- Interviews with programme leads and managers across Scotland.



# Programme Design

- Different approaches taken to the design and structure of CLW programmes.
- CLW programmes aim to tackle a wide range of issues.

*“It’s not one size fits all. I am really keen to reiterate that. What happens in areas like Glasgow or Edinburgh can be quite different from what needs to happen in places like Highlands”*



# Programme Delivery

- Variation in patient pathways, including:
  - Accessibility of services
  - Sources of referral
  - Number of appointments
- CLW role is flexible and diverse and understanding of the role varies.

*“When you look across the country and you look at all the different link worker programmes, some of them are poles apart in their delivery. They are all doing really good work but are quite different in some aspects”*



# Monitoring and Evaluation

- Early use of Minimum Core Dataset.
- Range of data management systems used across programmes.
- Ambiguity about what to collect and how to evaluate programmes.

*“We need much more of that evidence to support us and to show that we can make a difference, and that the difference is not just nice to have, it is part of everyday general practice”*



# What happens next?

- Full report published in June 2023.
- Findings will inform VHS and SCLWN policy engagement over the next year.
- Follow up events to discuss findings.
- Further research to focus on certain aspects of the findings.



# Thank you

Link to research briefing can be found here :

<https://vhscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/230517-Conference-Briefing-Paper-Final.pdf>

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