



Health, Hope & Healing

Tackling Health Inequality Together

SCOTTISH COMMUNITY LINK WORKER NETWORK
ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND AWARDS 2025

7th May 2025, Radisson Blu, Glasgow

Conference Agenda

9.00 - 10.00 Registration, refreshments, exhibition

10.00 - 11:15



Session One: Health and Equity

Welcome and ice breaker from Conference Chair

Justina Murray, Chief Executive, Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol & Drugs

Conference Overview

Tejesh Mistry, Chief Executive, Voluntary Health Scotland

Video Keynote Address

Neil Gray MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

Keynote Address

Gordon MacRae, Assistant Director, Communications & Advocacy, Shelter Scotland

11.15 - 11.45 Refreshments, exhibition and networking

11.45 - 13.10



Session Two: Hope and Thrive

Nemo Arts: The Power of Song

Panel session with GPs and Community Link Workers

- Gillian Dames, GP
- Chris Provan, Chair of RCGP
- Ingrid Sandison, NHS Shetland
- Rachel Bower, Perth and Kinross
- Jordon Swann, Aberdeen

National Review of Link Working in Scotland
Round Table Discussion:

Sushrith Kasturi, Senior Policy Advisor, Primary Care
Directorate, Scottish Government

13.10 - 14.00

Lunch, exhibition and networking

14:00 - 15.40



Session Three: Healing and Learning

Scottish Community Link Worker Network Video

Collaboration to deliver Scotland's Population Health
Framework and a shift to prevention

Round Table Discussion:

Mark McAllister, Organisational Lead for Strategic
Development, Public Health Scotland

Trauma and Vicarious Trauma

Round Table Discussion:

Fiona Douglas, Health Promoting Health Service, NHS
Lanarkshire

Conference Closing Remarks

Roisin Hurst, Project Manager, Scottish Community Link
Worker Network

15.40 - 16.00

Session Four: Celebrate and Congratulate



Presentation of the first Scottish Community Link Worker Network Awards:

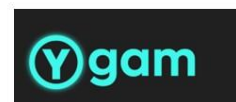
Scottish Community Link Worker Team of the Year

- Aberdeenshire MHIWS
- CVS Inverclyde
- Stirling and Clackmannanshire

Outstanding Scottish Community Link Worker of the Year

- Sophie Carmichael
- Dawn Craig
- Liam McGinlay

With thanks to our 2025 Exhibitors!



#SCLWNConf25

First Scottish Community Link Worker Network Awards

Our Finalists: Community Link Worker Team of the Year

Aberdeenshire Mental Health Improvement & Wellbeing Service CLW Team



Established in February 2022, MHIWS initially provided all their support virtually. As restrictions eased and services reopened, they expanded, becoming a hybrid service offering in-person appointments as well.

Aberdeenshire is a huge geographical area and they are split into 3 teams covering North, Central and South. Each area is demographically different and has variable requirements, services and resources. The

team developed a Self-Referral Pathway which has significantly eased pressure on the GP practices and which now accounts for approximately 80% of all referrals.

CVS Inverclyde CLW Team

Inverclyde is an area with high levels of inequality and deprivation meaning that patients referred to the CLWs often have complex psychosocial/socioeconomic needs. In year 2023-24 the team supported 1307 patients through 7746 interactions. Through positive conversations, motivational

interviewing and building strong therapeutic relationships, patients have been referred to a total of 4102 destinations to improve their wellbeing. As one patient stated, *"Not all heroes wear capes."* The team has a strong focus on CLW wellbeing with a commitment to self-improvement and reflective practice.



Stirling & Clackmannanshire CLW Team



Whilst working in two separate local authority areas the close-knit team are clearly united with a passion and commitment to improving people's lives. They share this approach to learning and support through regular forums, not just for their team, but for CLW organisations in Forth Valley. The programme has expanded into 8 GP Practices and referrals have increased by 36% year on year. They have worked with a staggering number of 198 organisations, linking people into community or specialised support. They are working with several different partners including Sunny Connections, The Yoga Tree, Cruse Scotland and Macmillan.

Our Finalists:

Outstanding Community Link Worker of the Year

Sophie Carmichael, Pilton Community Health Project



Sophie is based at Pilton Community Health Project in Edinburgh. One of the key qualities that sets Sophie apart is her unwavering dedication to her clients. She approaches each person she works with empathy, compassion, and a genuine desire to help them navigate the challenges they are facing. Sophie also excels in building strong relationships and partnerships within the community. She collaborates effectively with a wide range of stakeholders, including healthcare providers, social service agencies, and fellow community organisations, to ensure that her clients have access to the resources and support they need to thrive. Dr

Mark Goddard (GP - Longhouse Surgery, Edinburgh), said, “I have nothing but positive things to say about Sophie and her impact on patients I have referred in her direction.”

Dawn Craig, Carr Gomm

Dawn joined Carr Gomm in Edinburgh in October 2023 with a wealth of experience and it is with patients that she really shines. Dawn’s practice is large and the demographic is very deprived. Patients face extremes of health inequalities, with some struggling to make ends meet. Many of Dawn’s referrals are for basic needs, but she collaborates with individuals to look at how they can work with her to improve their situation in the longer term. She is a fantastic team player, contributing to discussions at all levels. Her Lead GP, Catriona Morton said, “Dawn is now an integral part of our practice team, empowering us to understand better how we can enable patients to move on from what are often debilitating and lifelong conditions, and early life trauma”.



Liam McGinlay, Sources of Support



Liam works for Sources of Support in Dundee. He is an exceptional Primary Care Link Worker who embodies the very essence of dedication, compassion, and professionalism in his role. He cares about the patients he supports as if they were his own family, ensuring that each person receives the highest level of care and advocacy. His passion for improving the lives of others is evident in everything he does. Patients who have had the privilege of working with Liam describe his support as life-changing, often attributing their improved well-being and renewed sense of hope to his unwavering dedication and expertise. Liam has played a pivotal role in shaping and enhancing the service. His diverse skillset and creative thinking have been instrumental in the redesign of their service publicity, helping to increase awareness and strengthening CLW presence in GP practices across Dundee.

We want to thank all the entrants to this year's awards! A huge thank you to our judging panel for 2025:

Christine Carlin, Chair of Voluntary Health Scotland

Justina Murray, Chief Executive, Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol & Drugs

We hope you will join us in congratulating all the finalists and we look forward to announcing the winners!



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