

**Scotland Policy Conferences:
Next steps for the health and social care system in Scotland**

Timing: Afternoon, Monday, 18th May 2026

Taking Place Online



SCOTLAND POLICY
CONFERENCES

Draft agenda subject to change

- 12.30 Registration
- 13.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Christine Jardine MP
- 13.05 **Assessing priorities for the health and social care system in Scotland**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.25 **Coordination and implementation of the *Service Renewal Framework* across regional and local levels**
Councillor Paul Kelly, Spokesperson for Health and Social Care, COSLA
- 13.35 **Progress of the *Recovery Plan* and NHS reform - priorities for improving operational capacity and functioning**
learning from the NHS Recovery Plan and NHS Scotland Operational Improvement Plan | addressing current operational pressures and delayed discharge | priorities for increasing capacity and improving access | implementation of the Service Renewal Framework and the Population Health Framework | proposals for a national delivery organisation and implications for governance and accountability | coordinating national and local delivery | supporting alternatives to hospital admission | addressing challenges facing primary care | impact of Hospital at Home and community provision | assessing targeting and use of funding in the Scottish Budget | strategies for improving efficiency | resourcing and coordination implications for workforce, patients and local communities | improving end of life care | value-based approaches to resourcing
Laura Wilson, Director, Scotland, Royal Pharmaceutical Society
Mark Hazelwood, CEO, Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
Matt McLaughlin, Head, Health, UNISON Scotland
Senior representative, primary care
Senior representative, health board
- 14.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- 14.25 **Chair's closing remarks**
Christine Jardine MP
- 14.30 Break
- 14.40 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 14.45 **Next steps for the National Care Service Advisory Board**
Susan Douglas-Scott, Chair, Interim National Care Service Advisory Board; and Board Chair, NHS Golden Jubilee
- 14.55 **Priorities for the social care sector - implementing the *Care Reform Act 2025*, increasing capacity and coordinating with communities**
delivery of Anne's Law | improved support for terminally-ill patients | enhanced rights for unpaid carers | rollout of Care Reform (Scotland) Act measures | funding and structures to support delivery | channelling funding and support for the workforce | options for addressing stakeholder concerns on funding levels and capacity | alignment with wider NHS-focused measures | improving consistency of provision | strengthening preventative and community-based services | embedding co-production with the sector and communities
Diane Fraser, Chair, Adults Social Work Standing Committee, Social Work Scotland
Alison Christie, Policy Manager, Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland
Caroline Cherry, Principal Social Work Officer, Fife Health and Social Care Partnership
- 15.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 15.35 **Practical considerations for integrating the health and social care systems**
Pat Togher, Chief Officer, Glasgow City Integration Joint Board
- 15.45 **Priorities for renewal and practicalities for system integration**
empowerment of NHS Boards and Integration Authorities | roles of local authorities, the third sector and independent providers | coordination across the system | expectations for the role of a national delivery organisation | coordination across Integrated Joint Boards and the wider system | population-based planning and service redesign | tackling regional health inequalities | workforce and infrastructure requirements | incorporating lived experience into planning and delivery | service standards and quality across new and existing models of care | digitalisation, virtual services and innovation adoption | collaboration with industry and the life sciences sector | partnership working to support access and consistency | priorities for the Patient Safety Commissioner
David Buck, Senior Fellow, Public Health and Inequalities, The King's Fund
Irina McLean, Health and Social Care Research Coordinator, NHS Research Scotland
Alison Ward, Vice President and Programme Director, CGI
Senior representative, communities
- 16.05 Questions and comments from the floor
- 16.30 **Next steps for improving the quality of health and social care services**
Dr Simon Watson, Medical Director, Healthcare Improvement Scotland
Questions and comments from the floor
- 16.55 **Chair's and Scotland Policy Conferences closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Harry Nelson, Scotland Policy Conferences