



# CROSSREACH

Care you can put your faith in

## Priorities for the next Scottish Government

We know in Scotland today we are facing some very real challenges within Health and Social Care. As CEO for CrossReach, one of Scotland's largest third sector social care organisations, and the social care delivery arm of The Church of Scotland, I see the impact of this each day. The current challenges in the sector, posed by both funding and recruitment issues, overspill into long waiting lists. Demand for services far outstrips what we are able to offer and we know that this is not unique to CrossReach. All over Scotland people in need of support face long waiting lists and are likely to be offered a service which can be driven by restricted resources rather than one which will really allow them to thrive. The impact can be much worse for those affected by poverty or living in a postcode where services are particularly difficult to access. Cuts to social care funding are initially felt by those who rely on the support offered, but as these continue, there is a ripple effect in families and in communities across Scotland as more people reach crisis point due to the erosion of supportive infrastructure that social care offers. This simply puts more pressure on acute services and the problems continue on. What we need now is a government committed to addressing the current crisis and investing in a future where all can live a full and fulfilling life.



Our vision for CrossReach as outlined in our 5 year strategy, Love from CrossReach, is that we do our bit to help Scotland be a compassionate society where the worth of every individual is recognised and celebrated and where loving relationships allow all to live well and in-line with their needs, choices and aspirations.

As we look ahead to the Scottish Parliament election, this document highlights our key priorities for the next Scottish Government and outlines some of the areas for change that are important to us. I would very much welcome your support in sharing these messages with those running for office in your constituency and beyond.

Viv Dickenson  
CEO CrossReach



There are over  
**46,500**  
voluntary sector  
organisations in Scotland



In a typical year  
**4 in 5**  
households use a  
voluntary sector service



Scotland's voluntary sector has  
**136,000**  
paid staff - 5% of Scotland's  
workforce

scvo.scot

# CROSSREACH

## 28,000

people supported  
annually

## 1700

Employees

## 300

Volunteers

## £59m

Turnover

- Learning Disabilities
- Mental Health
- Older People
- Substance Use
- Children and Families
- Counselling and Support
- Justice System
- Homelessness



## What 3 things matter most to CrossReach:

### The people we support

That the people supported by CrossReach feel respected, listened to and have their rights upheld. We want them to feel fully involved in decisions affecting their lives and can shape their support by exercising maximum choice and control.

### Our workforce

That our employees feel they are properly valued for their professionalism, skills and expertise and can develop in their career. We want them to feel involved in decision making and are able to influence their working conditions and improvements to services.

### Strong and Sustainable Services

That our services are of high quality, financially secure and are based on established need. We want them to be well resourced, environmentally sustainable and able to innovate, change and grow as appropriate in order to best serve those supported by them now and to meet future need.

**As we approach the Scottish Elections, our key asks of the new Scottish Government are based around the 5 following principles:**

• **Invest in early intervention and prevention** to help keep people well, safe, fulfilled and able to live as independently as they choose.

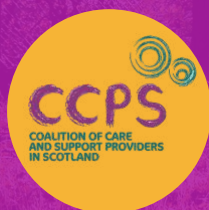
• **Deliver dignity of work** to the social care workforce - by addressing Fair Work and Fair Pay in order to build a strong, effective, resilient and well trained workforce delivering for those they support.

• **Address current inequalities** Poverty and geography are two factors in driving health inequalities and access to support.

• **Include people who access services** in their design and delivery- so that they are better able to deliver what matters to individuals and to society.

• **Commit to sustainable funding** for third sector social care organisations based on fair funding principles so that the sector can deliver excellent, values based, service for the people of Scotland.

### Further reading:



The Church of Scotland  
Social Care Council

Operating as CrossReach, Scottish Charity No: SC011353



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## Support Materials:

To further support your preparation for the run up to the election here are links to materials relevant to the work of CrossReach.

### Unfair to Care 2025

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Community Integrated Care has highlighted the true value of frontline support workers and the economic impact of investing in social care

### National Dementia Strategy

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Dementia UK outlines their manifesto in support of the delivery of the National Dementia Strategy.



#### The Promise Scotland

Ahead of the Scottish Parliamentary elections Promise Scotland has published a paper to show what must happen to keep the promise by 2030.

### GIRFEC

#### Getting it right for every child

An overview of the consideration and function of the non-statutory child's plan within getting it right for every child. (GIRFEC)

### National Mission on Drugs Deaths

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Scottish Government plan to reduce drugs deaths and improve lives impacted by drugs 2022-2026

### The Feeley Review

#### The Feeley Review

An independent review of Adult Social Care in Scotland.

## How can you get involved?

### Hustings

Election candidates or parties debate policies and answer questions from the audience at a hustings meeting providing voters with an opportunity to hear the views of candidates or parties.

When all candidates or parties standing are invited, a hustings does not promote any particular candidate or party because they all have the opportunity to speak and be questioned.

If you plan to attend a hustings meeting, please consider sharing the messages from CrossReach. If you plan to host a meeting, please consider inviting a CrossReach representative along.

### Get in touch with your local MSP:

MSP's are your representative in parliament and you are able to contact them with your views at any time.

#### MSP contact details



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