

Directory of Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs Scotland)



Our voices ■ Our choices



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About this Directory

This short directory tells you about Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) in Scotland, what we do and how to contact us. It has been produced to help put organisations and individuals in touch with Disabled People's Organisations.

Working closely with disabled people and Disabled People's Organisations will help you to understand the rights we have, the reality we face and what needs to change so that we have equal enjoyment to our rights to independent living, participation and citizenship. We want to work with you to make these changes. When you do this, you are more likely to get results that work well for disabled people and that means for your organisation and for Scotland as a whole.

This directory includes the national and strategic DPOs in Scotland. There are other DPOs including local ones, however it is a helpful starting point and the organisations listed here will be able to signpost you.

What are Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs)?

DPOs are organisations run by and for disabled people. This means that at least 51% of people on our boards are disabled people. For more information, please see "It's our world too" (ILiS 2010). DPOs are part of the UK disability rights movement and our values are rooted in the social model of disability which basically says that it is the barriers put in place by society which disabled us, not a medical impairment. We challenge these barriers which include physical, legal, financial, communication and attitudes though there are many more and they take many forms. Most DPOs are for all disabled people regardless of impairment and they aim to remove all the barriers.

DPOs aim to influence decision makers, public bodies, private sector, employers and society and have allies across many sectors particularly the 'Third Sector'. We bring the direct lived experience of disabled people to the table. Some DPOs work locally and others work nationally. Some DPOs are made up of people who share a specific impairment.

For more information, please see "It's our world too" (ILiS 2010). If you are unsure which organisation to contact, Independent Living in Scotland contact@ilis.co.uk

About the Scottish Independent Living Coalition

The Scottish Independent Living Coalition (SILC) is a coalition of the key strategic Disabled People's Organisations in Scotland. All the organisations in this Directory are members of SILC. We work together to influence decision makers and service providers and to highlight what needs to change, why and how to do it working with us disabled people to deliver our equal rights.

We can support decision makers to develop policies and programmes by meeting with you to share our lived experience and solutions for change, and our priorities and principles for enacting such change. We work alongside our stakeholders from across civil society such as professional bodies, academics and elected members. SILC is part of the Scottish Government's Programme Board for its Delivery Plan for A Fairer Scotland for Disabled People, which details the Government's approach to progressing the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled People, in Scotland.

The Secretariat and initial contact point for SILC is ILiS contact@ilis.co.uk. Please get in touch if you would like to meet with us.

The information in this directory was taken directly from the websites of the organisations listed with their approval.

The directory – national organisations

These national organisations cover the whole of Scotland. This means they engage mostly with national organisations e.g. the Scottish Government, COSLA, NHS Scotland, other national third sector organisations and so on, but they also have local links through their membership organisations

Who we are: Inclusion Scotland

What we do:

Inclusion Scotland works to achieve positive changes to policy and practice, so that we disabled people are fully included throughout all Scottish society as equal citizens.

We do this by:

- Influencing decision-makers, ensuring that disabled people are involved in developing effective solutions for policy and practice that reflect our expertise by experience and meet our needs and aspirations.
- Supporting disabled people to be decision-makers themselves, promoting the equal representation of disabled people as policy-makers and our right to make decisions about our own lives.
- Developing capacity, awareness and engagement, of disabled people, disabled people's organisations, and the organisations and institutions that affect our lives.

Contact details:

Phone

0131 281 0860

Website

www.inclusionscotland.org

Facebook and Instagram

InclusionScotland

Twitter

@InclusionScot



**Inclusion
Scotland**

Disabled People's Organisation

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The directory

Who we are: People First (Scotland)

What we do:

People First (Scotland) is Scotland's learning disabled people's user-led organisation. We work for the human rights of people who have the labels of Learning Disability or Intellectual Impairment.

We do this by:

- Campaigning to establish and protect the same freedom, choice, dignity and control held by other citizens across all areas of life.
- Local and national work to influence policy and practice, including: work on the Keys to Life strategy; forensic and criminal justice services; support for parents with learning disabilities; hate crime; supported decision-making and Self Directed Support.
- Collective advocacy and development of and support for local member led groups.
- International links.
- Training.

Contact details:

Phone
0131 478 7707

Website
www.peoplefirstscotland.org

Email
admin@peoplefirstscotland.org



The directory

Who we are: Disability Equality Scotland

What we do:

Disability Equality Scotland (DES) is a national organisation working to achieve full access and inclusion for every disabled person in Scotland. DES is the umbrella organisation for all disability Access Panels in Scotland, providing them with support and guidance to improve the lives of disabled people at a local level throughout Scotland.

We do this by:

- Providing a strategic and operational understanding of access and inclusion in Scotland including establishing an evidence base that informs policy and best practice.
- Promoting the value of and represent the opinions of disabled people to increase recognition and support for involvement of disabled people in decision making.
- Educating the public about the importance of access and inclusion in our society.
- Encouraging diversity and enhance access to inclusion by addressing barriers and targeting those not currently involved.
- Working with organisations, communities and Access Panels to enable community engagement to have a positive impact on addressing areas and issues of need and disadvantage.

Contact details:

Phone

01259 272 064

Website

disabilityequality.scot

Facebook

[DisabilityEqualityScotland](https://www.facebook.com/DisabilityEqualityScotland)

Twitter

[@DEScotTweets](https://twitter.com/DEScotTweets)



**Disability
Equality
Scotland**

The directory

Who we are: Self Directed Support Scotland (SDSS)

What we do:

SDSS is a national membership organisation for self-directed support organisations. We actively promote Independent Living by supporting, working with and championing the aims of SDS disabled people's organisations.

*SDSS works mainly on Self Directed Support, but also works nationally on broader independent living policy issues related to SDS.

We do this by:

- Being the national membership organisation for self-directed support organisations.
- Developing resources, materials and training for our member organisations.
- Delivering presentations to promote SDS and the principles it stands for.
- Working with Scottish Government, local authorities, voluntary sector organisations, NHS health boards, universities and colleges to raise awareness of SDS and independent living.
- Researching best practice, identifying examples of good practice in SDS and reporting back to member organisations and others.

Contact details:

Phone

0131 475 2623

Website (organisation)

www.sdsscotland.org.uk

Website (SDS information)

www.sdsinfo.org.uk

Email

info@sdsscotland.org.uk

Twitter

[@sdsscotland](https://twitter.com/sdsscotland)



The directory

Who we are: British Deaf Association (BDA)

What we do:

The BDA stands for Deaf, Equality, Access and Freedom of Choice. Its mission is to ensure a world in which the language, culture, community, diversity and heritage of Deaf people in the UK is respected and fully protected, ensuring that Deaf people can participate and contribute as equal and valued citizens in the wider society. The visions and values of BDA are; Protecting our Deaf culture and identity; Asserting our linguistic rights; Fostering our community; Achieving equality in legal, civil and human rights; Developing our alliances. We also aim to act as guardians of BSL.

We do this by:

- Engaging with the Deaf Community.
- Improving the quality of life by empowering Deaf individuals and groups.
- Enhancing freedom, equality and diversity.
- Protecting and promoting BSL.
- Championing Access and Inclusion.
- Offering advice and signposting and advocacy.
- Working across the following themes - BSL (Scotland) Charter, heritage, Deaf roots and pride, youth.
- Researching, and developing policy.
- Deaf International Development.

Contact details:

Phone

0141 248 5565

Website (organisation)

www.bda.org.uk

Facebook

BritishDeafAssociation

Twitter

@BDA_Deaf



The directory

Who we are: Voices of Experience (VoX)

What we do:

VOX is Scotland's national service- user- led mental health organisation. We represent our members' views at the national level to ensure that mental health service design and delivery reflects the needs of individuals with a lived experience of mental illness. We also promote the interests of individuals with a lived experience of mental ill health and support the development of a more constructive and enlightened understanding of mental health issues throughout society as a whole.

We do this by:

- Collective advocacy to inform and improve mental health policy, service design and delivery.
- Diversity work on human rights.
- Helping to share good practice.
- Capacity building.
- Improving services through representation.
- Measuring outcomes.
- Undertaking research.

Contact details:

Phone

0141 572 1663

Website

www.voxscotland.org.uk

Email

info@voxscotland.org.uk

Facebook

VoicesOfeXperience

Twitter

@voxscotland



The directory – local organisations

These local organisations focus on working in their geographical areas, however several of them also work nationally to influence some policy and practice, including through participation on the SILC.

Who we are: Glasgow Centre for Inclusive Living (GCIL)

What we do:

GCIL is run by disabled people for disabled people. We believe that barriers disable people, not impairments. We work to enable disabled people to assert more control over their lives as equal citizens.

We do this by:

- Providing one-to-one support, advice, information on housing and self-directed support including payroll options.
- Managing Home2fit, Scotland's accessible housing register
- Producing the Adapt2Fit guide on accessible adaptations for homes
- DigiKnow: digital inclusion through group and one to one training.
- Open Door: supported placements, job search assistance, training etc.
- Equality Academy: Graduate level placements with Health Boards and Government.
- Right to Speak: augmentative and alternative communication equipment to try or borrow on a trial basis.
- Braille and audio transcription service.
- Fully accessible meeting room hire.
- Independent and collaborative local and national policy work.

Contact details:

Phone
0141 550 4455

Website
www.gcil.org.uk

Twitter
[@GCIL_Support](https://twitter.com/GCIL_Support)

Facebook
Glasgow Centre for Inclusive Living



The directory – local organisations

Who we are: Glasgow Disability Alliance (GDA)

What we do:

GDA is a membership-led organisation of disabled people and groups in Glasgow. GDA act as the collective, representative voice of disabled people and their groups, promoting equality, rights and social justice. With over 4000 members, GDA is, the biggest groundswell of disabled members in Scotland. GDA supports disabled people to fulfil potential and have their voices heard, using programmes of individual and collective learning and capacity building.

We do this by:

- Wide scale community engagement of disabled people.
- Free, and fully accessible programmes of learning, development and capacity building individually and collectively.
- Raising Awareness and tackling inequality through collective voices and representation.
- Providing information and signposting.
- Coproduction with agencies.
- Specialisms and projects include:
 - Capacity building, social capital and resilience,
 - Citizenship and peer support,
 - Community development,
 - Employability and lifelong learning,
 - Local and national policy work,
 - Older disabled people,
 - Self Directed Support,
 - Young disabled people.

Contact details:

Phone
0141 556 7103

Website
www.gdaonline.co.uk

Twitter
[@GDA_online](https://twitter.com/GDA_online)

Facebook
[glasgow.disabilityalliance](https://www.facebook.com/glasgow.disabilityalliance)



Glasgow Disability Alliance
Confident Connected Contributing

The directory – local organisations

Who we are: Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living (LCIL)

What we do:

Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living (LCiL) supports disabled people, people with long-term conditions and older people, to live independently in their communities.

We do this by:

Supporting people with any aspect of Self-Directed Support:

- Training for disabled people.
- Training for personal assistants.
- Disability Equality Training for organisations.
- Support for living and work choices.
- Personal and collective capacity building.
- Disability Advice and information service.

Contact details:

Phone
0131 475 2350

Website
www.lothiancil.org.uk

Twitter
[@LothianCIL](https://twitter.com/LothianCIL)



Contacts

Please contact the Independent Living in Scotland Team for further information about other this Directory or visit our website.



Post: ILiS at Inclusion Scotland
Brunswick House
51 Wilson Street
Glasgow, G1 1UZ

Email: contact@ilis.co.uk

Website: www.ilis.co.uk

Twitter: [@ilisproject](https://twitter.com/ilisproject)



Post: Inclusion Scotland
Hayweight House
Lauriston Street
Edinburgh, EH3 9DQ

Email: info@inclusionscotland.org

Website: www.inclusionscotland.org

Twitter: [@InclusionScot](https://twitter.com/InclusionScot)

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