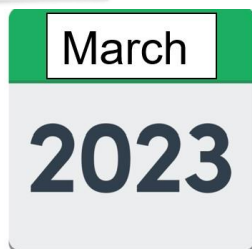
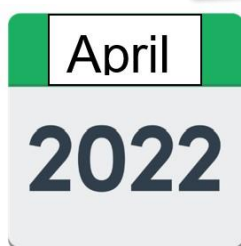




Our voices ■ Our choices



# Inclusion Scotland's Annual Report

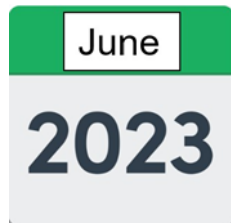
It tells you about  
the work we did  
from April 2022 to  
March 2023

Easy Read  
Summary



## A message from Dr Jim Elder- Woodward, Inclusion Scotland's Convenor

Our last Convenor was Leo  
Starrs-Cunningham.



He left Inclusion Scotland in  
June 2023.



Thank you Leo for all your  
hard work.



Inclusion Scotland and our  
members have worked  
hard.



We have worked on the  
Covid-19 pandemic and  
what happened to disabled  
people



Now we are working on the cost of living crisis.



We have been supported by Michelle Cook to make sure we are strong and ready for the future.



Thank you to the Board and all the staff for your hard work.



Next year our Board will build its leadership skills.



You can read more about it in this report.



Our People-Led Policy Panel works together on the new National Care Service.



We are worried about the contract between the Scottish Government and all the Local Authorities in Scotland.



This is called the 'Verity House Agreement'.



Local authorities will be able to make decisions about social care support.



We want the decisions to be made for the whole of Scotland.

We should be part of the decisions that are about us.



We sent a report to the Scottish Human Rights Commission for the United Nations.



7 years ago, the United Nations said the UK government put disabled people in a 'catastrophic' situation.



Our report said that things have got worse for disabled people.

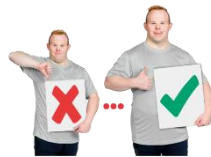


We told the United Nations what disabled and deaf people told us about their lives.



We will help the Disabled People's Movement to build its leadership skills.

Together we are stronger.











We can work together to make Scotland a better place for disabled people.

Dr Jim Elder-Woodward  
Convenor (from June 2023)

	<p><b>A message from Inclusion Scotland's Leadership Team</b></p>
	<p>This was a hard year for disabled people.</p>









     	<p>It was a hard year for our Disabled People's Organisations.</p> <p>The cost of running offices has gone up.</p> <p>The money we can get to run our organisations has gone down.</p>
   	<p>Inclusion Scotland did a lot this year.</p> <p>We will keep working with all our members in the future.</p>

 	<p>We want Scottish Government and others to hear a message.</p> <p>“We tell you what is happening in our lives. What will you do with it? We want to work with you but we want power.”</p> <p>Nothing About Us, Without Us.</p>
  	<p><b>Involving disabled people</b></p> <p>Disabled people have rights to be involved.</p>
 	<p>Our members' stories about what is happening to them every day is very important. It helps us to do our work.</p>

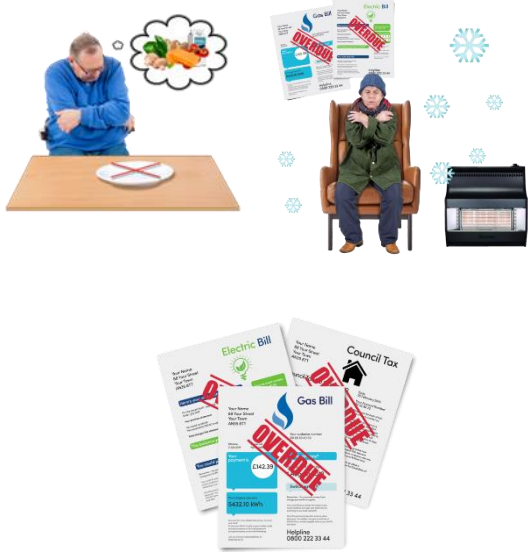


   	<p>Our members filled in surveys.</p> <p>One survey was about cuts to council services.</p> <p>One survey was about the cost of living</p>
  	<p>We found ways for our members to work with other organisations.</p> <p>Disabled people worked with Zero Tolerance.</p>
	<p>We met with the Minister Ben MacPherson MSP.</p>

	<p>He launched the new Adult Disability Payment at our office.</p>
	<p>We invited disabled people to tell him about what happens when they try to get benefits.</p>
 	<p>Disabled people join our groups.</p> <p>The <b>Poverty and Social Security Lived Experience Group</b> looked at poverty and the cost of living.</p> <p>We talked about the benefit called the Adult Disability Payment. We told government what you said.</p>

	<p>The <b>Scottish Independent Living Coalition</b> is a group of Disabled People's Organisations.</p> <p>They told the Scottish Government what is needed so that we have our rights</p>
  	<p>The <b>People Led Policy Panel</b> are people who have social care support, and unpaid carers.</p> <p>They worked hard on the proposed National Care Service (NCS).</p>
  	<p>They gave us evidence that we took to Parliament and The Scottish Government.</p> <p>They helped to co-design the Charter of Rights for the NCS.</p>

   	<h2 data-bbox="810 203 1316 331">We influence decision makers</h2> <p data-bbox="810 589 1362 779">We told decision makers that they must involve disabled people.</p> <p data-bbox="810 882 1356 920">We told them how to do that.</p>
 	<p data-bbox="810 1144 1260 1335">We made videos about working from home and having meetings online.</p> <p data-bbox="810 1485 1326 1523">Disabled people helped us.</p>
 	<p data-bbox="810 1666 1300 1778">We spoke to STV and the BBC.</p>

	<p>We wanted everyone in Scotland to know about the barriers disabled people have.</p>
    	<p>We wrote answers to consultations.</p> <p><b>Consultations</b> are papers with plans for changes. We told decision makers what disabled people thought about their plans.</p> <p>We told the government and the Scottish Parliament about what needs to change.</p>
 	<p><b>Poverty and the cost of living</b></p> <p>Disabled people cannot pay for food or keeping warm.</p>

	<p>There is not enough help for disabled people.</p> <p>Some disabled people are in 'debt'.</p>
	<p><b>“I only eat once a day and cannot afford to buy some food products that I should be eating.”</b></p>
	<p>We had a Conference called <b>Stacked Against Us.</b></p> <p>Three quarters of disabled people said they were going without things like food, heating, seeing friends and using the internet.</p>

	<h2 data-bbox="810 271 1385 416">Welfare and Social Security</h2> <p data-bbox="810 562 1321 685">Money from social security benefits is very important.</p> <p data-bbox="810 931 1345 1122">We asked for changes to be made to Scottish social security benefits</p> <p data-bbox="810 1290 1353 1413">This means disabled people will have some more money.</p>
	<p data-bbox="810 1516 1366 1706">We campaigned for the Scottish Child Payment to be raised to £25 a week.</p>



We won.



The Job Grant helps young disabled people with working.






We asked for it to be opened  
to more young disabled  
people.



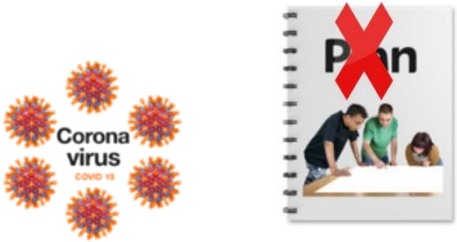


# Social Care Support






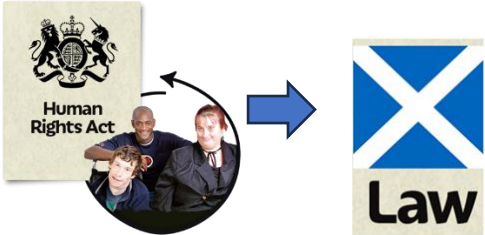
We worked with disabled people to find out what they need from a new National Care Service.

We told decision makers what is needed.











	<p>We told Members of the Scottish Parliament what needs to be in the Bill about the National Care Service.</p>
	<p>We worked with groups and boards.</p> <p>Some groups are Scottish Government groups.</p> <p>They look at things like the law and inspection.</p>
	<p>One group is about Personal Assistants for Self Directed Support.</p> <p>We worked with the disabled people's campaign to Stop Care Tax.</p>



	<p>This is about ending the money that people have to pay for social care support.</p>
  	<p><b>Employment</b></p> <p>Disabled people still have barriers to getting a job.</p> <p>We told the Scottish Government that all the projects to help people get a job have to work for disabled people too.</p> <p>They have to be accessible.</p>
  	<p><b>Covid 19</b></p> <p>Covid has not gone away.</p> <p>The things that changed because of Covid 19 will last for years.</p>


	<p>Before Covid 19 there were no plans in place.</p>
	<p>All this meant that disabled people died from Covid 19.</p>
	<p>We are part of the Inquiry to look at what happened across the United Kingdom.</p> <p>We told the Inquiry about what happened to disabled people when Covid 19 started.</p> <p>We told them about disabled people being lonely.</p>


 	<p>We told them that disabled people lost support.</p> <p>We told them that it was hard for disabled people to get health services, and things like food.</p>
 	<p><b>Human Rights</b></p> <p>Disabled people have human rights.</p>
  	<p>We worked with the Scottish Government's <b>Human Rights Advisory Board</b>.</p> <p>This is to help them to get ready for a new law that will put our human rights into Scots law.</p>

  	<p>We told them that disabled people need equal access to justice.</p> <p>We need justice when our rights have not been met.</p>
   	<h2>Making real changes</h2> <p>Our projects worked to make changes in practice.</p> <p>We have projects about employment and about getting elected.</p>
	<h2>Employment</h2>

   	<p>Our <b>We Can Work</b> internship programme supported disabled people into jobs.</p> <p>We helped disabled people into work with internships.</p>
 	<p>Our “<b>Employerability</b>” project helps employers.</p> <p>We trained employers on how to be good employers for disabled people.</p>
	<p>We also helped other projects who are part of Fair Start Scotland.</p>
  	<p><b>Access to Elected Office Fund</b></p> <p>We helped political parties and disabled people who were candidates for the parties.</p>

	<p>We told parties how to make politics more accessible for everyone.</p>
	<p>22 candidates were voted into elected office.</p>
	<p><b>Research</b></p> <p>Inclusion Scotland did more research this year about disabled people's experiences.</p>
	<p>We found out that some disabled people can't pay for electricity to run equipment at home.</p> <p>This is equipment for things like moving about and breathing.</p>

	<p>Thank you to everyone who took part in our surveys over the past year.</p>
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	<p><b>Our Board Members during this period</b></p> <p>Leo Starrs-Cunningham (Convenor)</p> <p>Jim Elder-Woodward (Vice-convenor)</p> <p>Kim Dams (Treasurer)</p> <p>Balkishan Agrawal</p> <p>Irena Paterson</p> <p>Derek Kelter</p> <p>Andrew Mason</p>
	<p><b>Thank you</b></p> <p>Thank you to all our members both individual</p>

    	<p><b>and organisations, and other disabled people.</b></p> <p>Thank you for sharing your lived experience with decision makers and Inclusion Scotland's staff team.</p> <p>We will keep working together. This will help us to make things better.</p>
  	<p><b>A Special thank you to:</b></p> <p>People who worked with us</p> <p><b>Our research partners</b></p>



**Disabled People's Organisations** who are members of the Scottish Independent Living Coalition

**United Kingdom Disabled People's Organisations** who worked with us

**Other Scottish organisations**

**Our donors** who donated to Inclusion Scotland this year.

**Our funders** Inspiring Scotland, the Scottish Government and the Scottish Human Rights Commission.