

Programme Descriptor



What is Partners in Policymaking?

'Partners in Policymaking' is an internationally recognised leadership development programme for parents of disabled children (up to the age of 18) and disabled adults, including people with learning difficulties, sensory impairments and physical impairments.

This programme is a chance for participants to gain the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to campaign and advocate for better treatment and social justice for disabled people within our society.



Who is Partners in Policymaking for?

The programme is designed for parents and adults who:

- think that life for disabled children and adults could be better and want to improve the way things are now

Some people on the programme will already be members of groups and organisations who are working for change, while others may be new to this.

By the end of the programme we expect that participants will be better able to contribute to the successful implementation of self-directed support.

PLEASE NOTE: This programme is not open to:

- Paid professional staff, unless they are applying in their capacity as a disabled person or a parent with a disabled child and attending in their own time.
- Parents with a disabled child over the age of 18.



Who can apply for a place on Partners in Policymaking?

People living anywhere in Scotland are entitled to apply for a place. There are 40 places available.

We will be looking first and foremost for people who want to make improvements in the way services are provided for disabled people. For this reason we will be asking you for as much information as possible, so please take your time when answering the questions in the application form. This will also help us to get a good mix of men and women from different areas of Scotland representing a wide range of experience and background.

We expect demand to be high and not everyone will be able to get a place. However, it is our intention to run more 'Partners in Policymaking' programmes in the future.

**“what's
in it for
ME?”**

What will You gain from attending Partners in Policymaking?

Participants will build up their knowledge about what is happening in Scotland and around the world to promote the inclusion of disabled people in society.

They will hear from some of the best teachers, thinkers and practitioners in the field of human services from Britain, Europe, and North America. They will also be provided with resource materials at each session.


Participants practice making presentations, producing information and getting their case across to others. They interview local managers and Service Providers and discuss issues with them. Between the sessions they work on local issues which concern them. Some 'Partners in Policymaking' graduates go on to influence policy making at a national level, while other graduates choose to work locally in their communities.

Many 'Partners in Policymaking' graduates build up support networks on the programme, which they continue to use after the programme has finished. They may also make use of their international network to exchange ideas with graduates in the rest of the United Kingdom and throughout the United States.

Content and Programme

The programme is made up of 8 sessions that take place over a weekend (Friday and Saturday) over an 8 month period from October 2015 through to May 2016. Times: **Friday** – 11.00 am – 9.00 pm (with overnight stay & dinner included)
Saturday – 9.00 am – 4.00 pm

SESSION 1

October 2015 						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	


2nd & 3rd October 2015

Understanding why things are the way they are now

During these 2 days we will look at the history of services for disabled people and how public and professional attitudes have caused people to be segregated and excluded from society.

We will also look at the way change has happened in Scotland and in different parts of the world. Organisations of families and disabled people have played a major part in these changes and we will study the work of these groups.

SESSION 2

November 2015 						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

6th & 7th November 2015

Relating to the system and person centred planning & self-directed support

During these 2 days we will spend time mapping out how the system works in different areas and share some stories. We will also begin using person centred planning techniques to explore ways of planning for a better support service for ourselves and our families and how this can contribute to people directing their own support.

SESSION 3

December 2015 						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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7	8	9	10	11	12	6
14	15	16	17	18	19	13
21	22	23	24	25	26	20
28	29	30	31			27


4th & 5th December 2015

Inclusive Learning – before, during and after school

Many people who are trying to improve the place of disabled people in our society believe that we need to start by making schools inclusive. These 2 days will look at the issues raised by inclusive education for people of all ages.

We will hear about the ways other communities and societies have made inclusive education a reality and spend time thinking about what we can do in Scotland to make our education system more inclusive.

SESSION 4

January 2016 						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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25	26	27	28	29	30	24
						31

8th & 9th January 2016


Getting the right support at home, before and after leaving home

This session will concentrate on home matters:

- What sort of help families need at home
- How should family support and getting a break be organised
- How we support disabled people to leave the family home and live in a place of their choice with the support they need

We will be exploring the alternatives to group living and finding out more about the growth of the community living movement. We will be gathering up-to-date information about new ways of supporting people and how people can really be enabled to direct their own support.

SESSION 5

February 2016 						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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8	9	10	11	12	13	7
15	16	17	18	19	20	14
22	23	24	25	26	27	21
29						28


5th & 6th February 2016

Employment and Training

Many disabled people in Scotland survive on unpaid work, low paid work or no work at all. For example, recent Scottish statistics (2013) indicate that 87% of the working age adult population of people with learning disabilities do not have a job or a training opportunity.

During these 2 days we will be hearing about ways of supporting people to find meaningful employment and receive the training and support they need to do this. We will be finding out how people's benefits can be affected by earnings and about their legal rights within the workplace.

SESSION 6

March 2016 						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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18th & 19th March 2016

Rights and Self Advocacy

Discrimination on the grounds of disability is not a medical, social work or educational issue; it is a human rights issue. During these 2 days we will be learning from powerful self-advocates about the growth of the disability movement nationally and internationally and the changes they want society to make.

We will also be spending time improving our own presentation and lobbying skills and techniques.

SESSION 7

April 2016 						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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22nd & 23rd April 2016

Making change happen locally

This session is about how to influence things locally in people's own community or in the way that services work. Everyone on the programme will have different things they want to change.

For example, some people might be trying to make their local playgroup accessible or getting the right support for their child to attend the local secondary school. Some people might be trying to change the way their local housing provider deals with requests for tenancies from people with learning difficulties or ensuring that their local authority produces accessible information about self-directed support.

We will be hearing from people who are experienced in running campaigns and learning how to work with other people to achieve positive changes.

SESSION 8

May 2016						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

20th & 21st May 2016



Building a movement and making changes at a national level

During this last session we will be hearing about how to influence the Scottish Government and get policies adopted to improve things nationally now and in the future. We will be talking to politicians and civil servants involved in the Government and learning about the different organisations involved in lobbying and campaigning at national level.

This is also the Graduation session and we will be hearing from the new '*Partners in Policymaking*' graduates about what they are going to do next.

Throughout the programme we will be gathering information about the latest 'enabling' technology for disabled adults and children. We will also be looking at practical skills for helping people to participate and communicate.

In between sessions there will be a range of coursework to choose from and some participants will be working on their own projects.

Who's organising the programme?

The Partners in Policymaking programme is being organised by In Control Scotland. Jaynie Mitchell, herself a 'Partners in Policymaking' graduate, is the lead associate coordinating and facilitating the delivery of the programme. All of the work we do is driven by a strong belief in social inclusion and the view that everyone is entitled to the supports they need to be part of and included in their own community.

How much does it cost?

The programme is free to participants. We may also be able to support participants with some additional costs such as travel expenses. Each participant's request for additional support will be considered and discussed on an individual's circumstances.



What if I need extra help with learning?

Some people may need some additional support like a reader or a scribe to work with them or an individual coach to go over course materials with them after each session. We will make arrangements with individual participants for any additional support they request.

When will I know if I have a place?

*We will be selecting participants for the course by **Friday, 28th August 2015**. We will make sure that everyone knows whether or not they have a place no later than **Wednesday, 2nd September 2015**.*



Core funding for this programme has been provided by the Scottish Government Self Directed Support Team