

Joint Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodivergence (LDAN) Bill Statement

Easy Read Version



We are very disappointed by the decision not to take forward the Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodivergence (LDAN) Bill.



In 2021 the Scottish Government said it wanted to deliver real change for people with learning disabilities by passing this law.



This Bill was an opportunity to make sure that the rights of people with learning disabilities, autistic people and neurodivergent people are protected.



The Bill was also an opportunity to make sure that services were accountable to the LDAN community.



The Bill would have improved the experiences of the LDAN community in areas like health, education and employment.



It would also have led to the creation of new services for LDAN communities.



Over the years 100s of people have helped the Scottish government to create this Bill.



This included individual people with learning disabilities and their families.



This also included experts and different organisations.



These people have shared their experiences and skills and their hopes for a better future.



These people have often shared their memories of difficult experiences.



They have done this because they believed it would help make things better for the LDAN community.



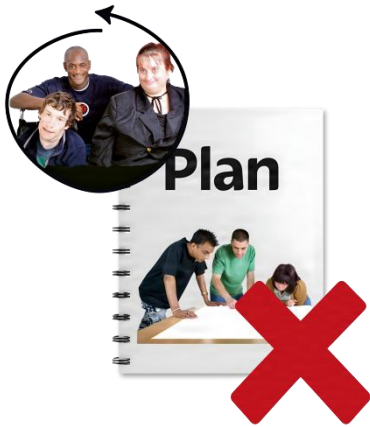
Because of this, many people in the LDAN community are worried and upset now that the Bill has been dropped.



Now that the Bill has been dropped many people want to know how the Scottish Government is now going to make the changes it hoped to achieve through the Bill.



The Scottish Strategy for Autism and *The Keys to Life* Learning Disability Strategy both ended in 2021.



Now there are no official strategies about any of the LDAN community.



This is a problem because the LDAN community is still facing serious and urgent challenges.



There are still too many people waiting too long for support.



There are still too many people living far away from their local community in places not suited to their needs.



There are still too many people who find it difficult to get access to the services and support they need.



There are still too many people dying early of illnesses that could have been prevented.



These are issues that need to be addressed straight away.



LDAN communities and organisations have given their time, knowledge and lived experience.



This is because they want to find solutions to problems faced by people with learning disabilities, autistic people, and neurodivergent people.



We are ready to work together with the Scottish Government to make sure that all the work that has been done is not lost.



We still want to work with the Scottish Government to help solve the issues that matter most to peoples lives.



We now expect First Minister and the Scottish Government to show clear leadership.



We want them to explain how they will make the changes that autistic people, neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities have been asking for over many years.