

LD Annual Health Checks Data as of 31 March 2024 (Figures submitted from NHS Boards)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
NHS Board	No of people with LD identified as eligible	Estimated no of eligible people, not currently identified	Estimated total no of people eligible	Estimated % of people not identified	No of annual health checks offered	% of eligible people identified (column A) offered health check	No of annual health checks completed	% of eligible people identified (column A) completed health check
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	1,956	100	2,056	5%	215	11%	179	9%
NHS Borders	700	200	900	22%	15	2%	15	2%
NHS Dumfries and Galloway	731	720	1,451	50%	7	1%	4	1%
NHS Fife	1,095	905	2,000	45%	320	29%	255	23%
NHS Forth Valley	1,300	100	1,400	7%	179	14%	136	10%
NHS Grampian	2,892	200	3,092	6%	23	1%	11	0%
NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde	5,964	6,500	12,464	52%	264	4%	212	4%
NHS Highland	1,083	400	1,483	27%	12	1%	12	1%
NHS Highland - Argyll and Bute HSCP	417	315	732	43%	0	0%	0	0%
NHS Lanarkshire	1,308	2,870	4,178	69%	0	0%	0	0%
NHS Lothian	3,000	4,000	7,000	57%	278	11%	231	8%
NHS Orkney	102	100	202	50%	15	15%	12	12%
NHS Shetland	250	150	400	38%	0	0%	0	0%
NHS Tayside	2,735	0	2,735	0%	69	3%	53	2%

NHS Western Isles	225	50	275	18%	8	4%	8	4%
Total*	23,758	16,610	40,368	41%	1,405	6%	1,128	5%

Annual Health Checks for Adults with Learning Disabilities National Implementation Group Meeting

Thursday 07 November 2024

In Attendance

Scottish Government
Scottish Government
Scottish Government
Scottish Government
NHS Highland
NHS Grampian
NHS Tayside
NHS Tayside
NHS Tayside
NHS Shetland
NHS Fife
NHS Lanarkshire
NHS Borders
NHS Grampian
NHS Western Isle
NHS Ayrshire & Arran
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
NHS Fife

Apologies

NHS Orkney
NHS Lanarkshire
NHS24
NHS Fife
NHS Grampian

Introduction

Scottish Government Official welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were new members who had joined the meeting, from NHS Tayside.

Focused Finance Discussion

Scottish Government Official opened the discussion recognising the ongoing concerns across some Boards following the decision to bundle the funding for annual health checks as part of the 2024/25 Enhanced Mental Health Outcomes Framework. It was recognised that Boards are operating within a challenging financial situation.

Given the legal obligations of the directions that are attached to the delivery of health checks Scottish Government Official advised that the Scottish Government (SG) are here to support conversations at local levels in terms of the importance of LD health checks. The group were reminded that the decision to bundle funding streams together was taken following feedback from Chief Financial Officers. The importance of looking at health checks as an invest to save model was also noted.

It was offered to the Group for **SG to issue a letter to all Health Boards Chief Financial Officers highlighting the importance of delivery of health checks and the legal obligations attached to the delivery. If members felt this to be useful, a copy of the letter would be shared with the Group.**

Health Boards presented the following concerns they are facing:

- Challenging time across Health Boards given that all services are being subject to savings, with other services sometimes being more established compared to health checks.
- Implementation has been difficult given the flexibility on local delivery models and implementation, and the difficulties of getting these established and up and running for some areas.
- Original budget allocation was not enough and given saving cuts delivery models required to be reconsidered in some areas.
- Savings for Health Boards with a smaller budgets make a large impact.

To gather more comprehensive baseline information, SG will issue a feedback form to all members to collate information on the current Health Checks position Boards are facing, and to collate information on the original budget provided and what local budgets will look like following savings reductions.

It was highlighted to the group that the Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport is keen to progress the delivery of health checks given the now extended timeline for the LDAN Bill, and is aware of the delay in delivery and concerns.

The discussion moved on to an FOI received by SG to provide the data on the number of health checks delivered at a national level so far. It was confirmed that the same FOI has been received by numerous Boards and the potential that there may be a follow up on this.

Updates from the Scottish Government

Scottish Government Official advised the group that the Health Check data for 23/24 is due to be published on the Scottish Government Health and Social Care Analysis website. This will show the data at a national level, however, SG will share a more detailed report with the group. This has also been shared with the Minister. The report goes into more local level detail and has examples of the positive impact Health Checks have had so far.

Scottish Government Official also reminded the group of the upcoming Leadership and Engagement Resources launch on 28 November with the Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport, and encouraged the members of the group to attend.

Data Update

Scottish Government Official provided a data update and updated that the next Data Programme Board has been postponed, and an alternative date will be scheduled. Scottish Government Official advised the group of a recent meeting with NHS England. Scottish Government Official advised the group that there was no standardisation on the delivery of health checks and NHS England colleagues are looking at Scotland at our approach and would like to continue to share practise and learning.

Phlebotomy Protocol

It was agreed that this would be discussed in more detail and included as part of the agenda for the next meeting. **SG will issue the protocol around the group ahead of this.**

Future Meetings

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 5 December 1pm – 2.30pm

AOB

Scottish Government Official thanked everyone for coming along to the meeting and emphasised the importance of the group working together to resolve the issues being faced by Board and then closed the meeting.

Email Regarding Media Query on Health Checks 20/11/24

Thank you. Confirming that I have issued the lines to STV and advised that the Minister is unavailable to do the interview before their deadline but is willing to do so at another point, if required.

Hi folks,

Ms Todd has had early sight of this. We won't have sufficient time to brief the Minister before meeting the broadcasters deadlines. Therefore, we can issue lines and decline.

Kind regards,

Sorry to chase but have you had a chance to consider? Grateful for views on both the bid. STV have advised the very latest it could be done would be 4.30pm and they'd need to prep for it, if accepted. Failing that, the statement has a deadline of 5pm.

We have received a media query from STV based on a Labour news release, with an FOI that they claim shows the majority of Scots with learning disabilities have not yet received a health check that was initially promised by the Scottish Government by the end of March 2023.

STV have asked for a written statement and/or bid for Ms Todd to speak about this but before 4pm could prove problematic to Ms Todd's diary. In place of this, they have asked for a statement but I'd also seek your views on the bid.

Grateful for policy lines for a statement and a view on whether or not the bid should be undertaken, subject to Ms Todd's diary availability.

• WHO	• OUTLET	• TIME	• LIVE/PRE-REC	• INTERVIEWER	• TOPICS	• Recommendation	• Other details (if required)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Todd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 20th November before 4pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRE-REC (in person) at the Scottish Parliament 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Alderman 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delays to health check-ups for adults with learning disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comms – Accept, subject to diary availability • Policy – Accept subject to diary 	

RESPONSE

Mental Health and Wellbeing Minister Maree Todd said:

“We want people with learning disabilities to live longer and healthier lives. Offering annual health checks is big step towards fulfilling that ambition.

“The Scottish Government allocates £2 million each year to NHS Boards to implement annual health checks for people with learning disabilities.

“Most Boards have started offering annual health checks and this has led to positive results in identifying treatable health conditions and supporting people with learning disabilities to access appropriate treatment.

“We are aware Boards have faced challenges in delivering health checks within the projected timescale and are doing so on a phased basis. We are working closely with all Boards to deliver these health checks across Scotland.”

Background:

The National Directions requires Boards to report to the Scottish Government on an annual basis with data on the implementation of health checks. This data will be published in due course.

NEWS FROM SCOTTISH LABOUR

£4MILLION QUESTION FOR SNP AS MAJORITY OF SCOTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES STILL WAITING FOR HEALTH CHECK

The SNP has broken a critical post-pandemic health pledge to thousands of vulnerable Scots despite pouring millions into the plan, data obtained by Scottish Labour has revealed.

The majority of Scots with learning disabilities such as Down's Syndrome are still waiting to be offered an NHS health check despite the SNP promising to offer such assessments by 31 March 2023.

The SNP Government first announced the plan in May 2022 and has handed at least £4million to health boards, yet data obtained by Scottish Labour confirmed that **none of the boards have made a target and in one board, no patient has received a health check at all.**

In Lanarkshire and Shetland, no patient received a health check despite nearly 3,000 being eligible.

This is despite the SNP's then-Social Care Minister Kevin Stewart writing to the Holyrood Health Committee in 2022 stating: "It is the expectation of the Scottish Government that by 31st March 2023 all of the known adults with learning disabilities will have been offered their first annual health check and that the majority will have had one completed."

In February 2024, Scottish Labour's Spokesperson on Social Security Paul O'Kane asked the current Minister for Social Care Maree Todd how many Scots with learning disabilities had received a health check since the government's announcement in 2022.

Todd then pledged that all Scots with learning disabilities should expect to be offered a health by 31st March 2024, suggesting that the government's original target date had been moved back by one year.

However, health board data obtained by Scottish Labour confirmed that this delayed timetable has also not been met.

Scots with learning disabilities die on average twenty years earlier than the rest of the population.

Heather was eligible for a health check but has not been contacted.

She said: “I would really like to speak to the doctors about my health issues, but it is really hard to get an appointment, and you only get 15 minutes to talk about stuff and having my health check would give me more time to talk about what I want to.

“According to the doctors I’m in a high-risk category so I really feel like I should be getting a health check. Also, covid is still out there and I was recently unwell because I had norovirus which was scary because I know the statistics for people with learning disabilities.”

Commenting Scottish Labour’s Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Equalities and Convener of the CPG on Learning Disabilities Paul O’Kane said: “Two years ago the SNP boasted about bringing in these health checks but instead they have let Scots with learning disabilities down.

“In my role as Convener for the CPG on Learning Disabilities I’ve spoken to many people who know they’re entitled to a health check yet have no indication of when they will get one and that is unacceptable.

“This SNP Government must now explain what has happened to the millions it poured into this plan if the intended recipients are not seeing the results.

“Neil Gray and Maree Todd must come forward to Parliament to explain why they have failed to deliver these checks on time, why they didn’t inform Parliament about the delay, and what they will do to ensure all Scots with learning disabilities get the health check they were promised as soon as possible.”

ENDS

Notes:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patients with learning disability who are eligible for Health Check	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• % of people offered health check since policy announcement in 2022
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• Ayrshire & Arran	• 1,988	• 40.7%
• Borders	• 700	• 9%
• Fife	• 1,471	• 46%
• Forth Valley	• 1,300	• 14%
• Greater Glasgow and Clyde	• 5,010	• 10.5%
• Grampian	• 3,000	• 4.6%
• Highland	• 700	• 9%
• Lanarkshire	• 2,488	• 0%
• Lothian	• 3,975	• 17%
• Shetland	• 233	• 0%
• Western Isles	• 161	• 5.4%

LEARNING DISABILITY ANNUAL HEALTH CHECKS DELIVERY

20 Nov: STV media query - Labour FOI shows the majority of people with learning disabilities have not yet received a health check by the end of March 2023 as required in the National Directions sent out by the Scottish Government.

The Scottish Government wants people with learning disabilities to live longer and healthier lives. Offering annual health checks is big step towards fulfilling that ambition.

- We have allocated £2 million each year to NHS Boards to implement annual health checks for people with learning disabilities.
- Most Boards have started offering annual health checks and this has led to positive results in identifying treatable health conditions and supporting people with learning disabilities to access appropriate treatment.
- We have been working closely with Boards to support them to progress delivery as much as possible, including through meetings with individual boards and the national implementation group.
- The National Directions require Boards deliver annual health checks to all people with learning disabilities, 16 and over, known to services and to report to the Scottish Government on an annual basis with data on the implementation of health checks. This data will be published in due course.

We are aware Boards have faced challenges in delivering health checks within the projected timescale and are doing so on a phased basis.

- Due to the individual delivery mechanisms chosen by each Board and the internal infrastructure required to support delivery of annual health checks, implementation is taking the form of a phased introduction across all Board areas to ensure optimum delivery of annual health checks.
- Although the implementation of health checks has not quite delivered as many as we had expected at this point, in the health checks that have been delivered so far, we are seeing the positive results of the checks for those who have accessed them.
- This will lead to improved health and wellbeing outcomes for people with learning disabilities.