

Cabinet Secretary for Health welcomes launch of films which celebrate the vital role of Community Link Workers in tackling health inequalities in Scotland

Voluntary Health Scotland (VHS) and the Scottish Community Link Worker Network (SCLWN) proudly present **powerful, inspiring new films** that highlight the game-changing role of Community Link Workers (CLWs) across Scotland. With over **300 CLWs** working in GP practices nationwide, they are transforming lives by focusing on what matters most to patients.



"I'm delighted that the Scottish Community Link Worker Network is launching these videos that share powerful first-hand accounts of the positive impacts that Community Link Workers have on the individuals that they support and within the general practice teams that they are part of."
Neil Gray, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

"We have been trying to improve outcomes for some of the most vulnerable members of our communities in Scotland for decades, without great success, and link working is a great ray of light in making sense of that."
Dr. Peter Cairns, GP, Wester Hailes

What Do Community Link Workers Do?
CLWs ask not "what's the matter with you?" but **"what matters to you?"**
They provide essential, person-centred support, helping people address non-medical issues such as:

- Housing
- Debt
- Loneliness & isolation
- Mental health & wellbeing

By connecting patients to community resources and services, CLWs are vital intermediaries between primary care and local communities, **preventing** the need for costly statutory services.

The 2023 Essential Connections Report, which looked at the range and scope of Community Link Worker programmes across Scotland, revealed the significant impact of CLWs in their communities:

- **95% of CLW referrals** are for mental health concerns
- **82% of CLW referrals** are for social isolation and loneliness

This pivotal report has prompted a **Scottish Government review** to ensure the CLW programme's sustainability and expansion to areas that need it most.

Watch Now: The Powerful Impact of Community Link Workers

- The Power of Community Link Workers: **hear from 3 CLWs about their role and what it means to them**
- Community Link Workers-Patient Stories: **hear from patients who have directly benefited from the service**
- GP interviews-Community Link Workers' role in primary care: **hear GPs talk about their experience of working with CLWs and their role in primary care**
- Overview of Social Prescribing and SCLWN**: learn more about the current context for social prescribing in Scotland and the role of the SCLWN**

We want you to be part of the change:

- Watch.
- Share.
- Learn about the life-changing work of Community Link Workers.
- Together, let's celebrate and champion their role in building healthier, more connected communities.

For more information, please contact: Roisin.Hurst@vhscotland.org.uk

About VHS and SCLWN

Voluntary Health Scotland (VHS) and the Scottish Community Link Worker Network (SCLWN) champion the critical work of CLWs and their contribution to Scotland's health and wellbeing.

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