



WELCOME

We have great pleasure in welcoming you to the Holyrood Policy Loneliness and Isolation event.

For those of you with a Twitter account, a hash tag has been set-up for today's event **#SocialIsolation**. Please also mention **@HolyroodEvents** in your tweets to highlight your activity to us so that we, and others, may follow the conversation and get involved.



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DELIVERING SCOTLAND'S SOCIAL ISOLATION & LONELINESS STRATEGY

5th February 2019, Edinburgh

Social isolation and loneliness are akin to chronic long-term conditions in terms of the impact that they can have on an individual's health and wellbeing.

The Scottish Government will publish a national strategy to tackle social isolation and loneliness by the end of 2018. As one of the first in the world, this strategy will help to raise awareness, deliver resources to community groups and ensure all sectors are focused on how we can empower communities to build a more connected Scotland.

Today we will examine how we can use the new strategy to tackle social isolation and loneliness across the life course and take a cross-sectoral approach to put in place resources to foster social connections in our local communities.

EVENT AGENDA

09:30 REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS

10:00 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION FROM CHAIR

Tom Freeman
Journalist, Holyrood Magazine

10:05 SESSION 1: CREATING A MORE CONNECTED SCOTLAND

- An up-to-date understanding of the new strategy and it's potential for change
- Next steps and future policy priorities
- Resources and opportunities for funding

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Bronach Hughes
Social Isolation and Loneliness - Equality Unit, Scottish Government

10:30 INTERACTIVE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Delegates will be given the opportunity to raise their key challenges ahead of the Q&A with our expert speakers. Through discussions with others in the room, we would like you to share learning around how we can work together to foster more social connections, and how we can roll this out in organisations following this event.

10:55 FEEDBACK FROM ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

11:35 SESSION 2: SOCIAL ISOLATION AND LONELINESS ACROSS THE LIFE COURSE AND IN DIFFERENT SETTINGS

11:35 SOCIAL CONNECTIONS AND SIGHT LOSS

- The need to highlight the impact of loneliness on vision impaired people.
- The experience of loneliness in people with sight loss

- Recommendations

Mark O'Donnell
Chief Executive, Royal Blind and Scottish War Blind

12:05 THE SCALE OF LONELINESS

- Welcoming the strategy
- Joining the strategy with other policies
- Examples from the University of the Third Age

Tom Berney
Former Chair of Scottish Older People's Assembly & Chair, University of the Third Age in Scotland

12:30 LUNCH

13:10 SESSION 3: SHARING AND LEARNING FROM GOOD PRACTICE

13:10 CASE STUDY: WEEKDAY WOW FACTOR

- Overview of Weekday Wow Factor Vision and Mission
- Update since of current outcomes to reduce Loneliness and Isolation
- Future plans for partnership work with local communities and caring organisations

Pasna Sallis
Founder, Weekday Wow Factor

13:50 QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

14:10 END OF DAY

**Agenda subject to change*

