# partnership matters briefing


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Welcome to Glasgow City HSCP's 'Partnership Matters' briefing, to keep you more up to date with some of what's happening across our HSCP with partners. Current and past briefings continue to be available on our HSCP's website, and they can be accessed from work and personal devices. We hope that you find our briefing useful. Any comments or suggestions for future topics are welcome, and they can be shared by contacting us at GCHSCP_Communications@glasgow.gov.uk.

## Glasgow Young Champs explore the city and share their voice

Glasgow Young Champs, the city's Champions Board for care-experienced young people, has been bringing young people together to explore Glasgow, create lasting memories and make their voices heard through its 2026 theme, 'Getting to Know Glasgow, Glasgow Getting to Know Us.'

Meeting fortnightly in Govan, the group provides a welcoming space where care-experienced young people can build friendships, have fun and act as change makers by sharing their experiences and helping to influence services and communities across the city. Throughout the year, Young Champs members have explored some of Glasgow's best-known cultural and historical attractions. The programme included visits to Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Riverside Museum, Pollok Park and the Burrell Collection, as well as a special tour linked to the famous Willow Tea Rooms.

The programme concluded with a memorable trip to Millport, which included a first ferry journey for some members of the group and provided another opportunity to experience something new together.

One of the highlights of the year was a visit from Glasgow Virtual School, which brought along the original Commonwealth Games baton.

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### Inside this edition


- Glasgow Young Champs explore the city and share their voice
- New video showcases the vital role of Occupational Therapy Technicians
- Minister visits Equipu Service to find out how it helps people to live more independently
- Interested in fostering or adoption?
- Mental health support for children and young people in Glasgow
- Annual Performance Report and Demographics and Needs Profile
- News, Meetings and Events

Inspired by the experience, Young Champs members designed and created their own batons as symbols of pride, hope and ambition.

The young people used their creations to express their aspirations for the future, challenge perceptions of care experience and celebrate what Glasgow means to them. The activity also encouraged wider discussions about life in Jamaica and helped participants make connections with global communities and cultures.

As well as offering opportunities for fun and exploration, the programme has encouraged meaningful participation, enabling care-experienced young people to share their strengths, creativity and ambitions while helping others better understand their experiences. Further Glasgow visits are being planned for the rest of the year.

A spokesperson for Glasgow Young Champs said: "Getting to Know Glasgow, Glasgow Getting to Know Us, gave us the chance to explore the city, try new things and spend time together, while showing Glasgow who Young Champs are and what matters to us."

Elaine Gillespie, our Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP)'s Team Leader for Participation and Employability said: "The Baton Visit was a brilliant opportunity for the Young Champs to express their hopes, ambitions and pride in Glasgow. Their creativity and ideas show why care-experienced young people must be heard and involved in shaping change.

"The Young Champs have been invited by the Promise Oversight Board to attend a Garden Reception at Holyrood on 29 September. This invitation recognises the group's commitment to participation, advocacy and influencing change for care-experienced children and young people. It reflects the important role the Young Champs play in sharing their experiences, helping shape services and ensuring that the voices of care-experienced young people are heard at both local and national levels."

The Champs group is open to children and young people who are currently 'care experienced' in the city and are 16 to 26 years. This includes young people living with foster carers, in residential care and those living in kinship care with extended family and friends. We need your help to ensure that the voices of young people are at the heart of everything we do in Glasgow. To find out more or to join please email the promise@glasgow.gov.uk

## New video showcases the vital role of Occupational Therapy Technicians

A new recruitment video is offering an inside look at the varied and rewarding work carried out by Occupational Therapy (OT) Technicians across Glasgow and neighbouring local authority areas.

The new 'Day in the Life' video has been developed to support recruitment efforts and raise

awareness of the important role OT Technicians play in helping people live safely and independently at home.

Working closely with Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP)'s Technical Operations Manager, William Darroch and members of the Technical Services team, the project highlights the wide range of responsibilities undertaken by OT Technicians every day.

From preparing and transporting specialist equipment to installing adaptations such as grab rails and carrying out technical workshop activities, the video demonstrates how the role combines practical skills with a strong commitment to improving people's quality of life.

Filmed alongside real OT Technicians during their working day, the video captures first-hand the knowledge, problem-solving abilities and technical expertise required in the role. It also showcases the satisfaction that comes from helping individuals remain safe, independent and confident in their own homes through practical solutions and personalised support.

An OT Technician who took part in the project said: "No two days are ever the same in this role. We work with people in their own homes, helping them overcome practical challenges and maintain their independence. Whether we are installing equipment, carrying out adaptations or finding solutions to meet someone's needs, it is rewarding to know that the work we do can make a real difference to someone's daily life. I was pleased to be involved in the video as it gives people a genuine insight into what the job involves and the positive impact it has on our communities."

William Darroch, Technical Operations Manager, said: "Occupational Therapy Technicians play a vital role in helping people maintain their independence and continue living safely in their own homes. Their work combines technical expertise, problem-solving and a strong commitment to improving outcomes for the people we support. This video provides an excellent insight into the breadth of the role and the positive impact our technicians have on individuals and communities every day. We hope it encourages more people to consider a rewarding career within Technical Services."

The project forms part of a wider initiative by Care and Technical Services to improve recruitment and shine a spotlight on specialist roles that can be difficult to fill but offer significant rewards. By providing an authentic insight into day-to-day responsibilities, the video aims to help prospective applicants better understand the career opportunities available and the positive impact these roles have on local communities.

The completed video is now being used as part of ongoing recruitment and career promotion activity, giving potential candidates the opportunity to learn more about the role before applying.

A special thank you goes to everyone involved in planning, filming and participating in the project, particularly the OT Technicians who generously shared their time and expertise to help showcase this important service.

People interested in finding out more about a career as an OT Technician can watch the video and explore opportunities through Glasgow City Council's Find a Career for Life campaign.

## Minister visits Equipu Service to find out how it helps people to live more independently

Alison Thewliss MSP, Minister for Community Care at The Scottish Parliament recently visited the Equipu service base in Baillieston, Glasgow.

Equipu is a specialist community equipment service helping thousands of people across West Scotland to live independently, remain safe at home and leave hospital sooner. Equipu is a partnership service hosted by Glasgow City Health and Social Care partnership (HSCP) in collaboration with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC) and the HSCPs of East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire, Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire and South Lanarkshire.

Gordon Bryan, our HSCP's Assistant Chief Officer, Care Services said: "The service provides a wide range of community equipment and assistive technology, including mobility aids, pressure care products, specialist seating, moving and handling equipment and telecare solutions. The service supports people in a variety of settings, including their own homes, hospitals, schools and care homes.

"The equipment provided plays a vital role in helping the HSCP support independent living, reducing reliance on formal care services and helping unpaid carers manage their caring responsibilities more safely. It also contributes to faster and safer hospital discharge by ensuring people have the support they need when returning home."

Thomas Gahagan, Partnership Manager for Equipu said: "Alongside its impact on health and wellbeing, Equipu is helping to deliver environmental and financial benefits through a strong commitment to recycling and reusing equipment. The service has increased the value of recycled equipment while reducing spending on new equipment purchases, demonstrating how sustainable practices can support high-quality care and make best use of public resources.

"The service also invests in workforce development, providing training for occupational therapists, physiotherapists, nurses and other health and social care workers to ensure equipment is used safely and effectively."

The Minister thanked staff for hosting her visit to Equipu. She said: "I was particularly struck by the dedication, innovation and collaborative approach demonstrated by your staff and how your initiatives were having a positive impact on the people you serve and the service you provide. Your focus on recycling was impressive."

Overall, Equipu demonstrates how partnership working, innovation and community-based support can help people maintain their independence while delivering value and sustainability across health and social care services.

More information on helping you to remain more independent at home in Glasgow is available.

## Interested in fostering or adoption?

Colleagues across Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) are being encouraged to consider whether fostering or adoption could be right for them, or to help spread the word to friends, family and others who may be interested.

Families for Children is currently seeking more foster carers and adopters to provide safe, stable and nurturing homes for children and young people across Glasgow. The need remains significant, with many children requiring care and support within their local communities and others waiting for permanent adoptive families. Children of all ages require family placements, including babies, toddlers, primary school-aged children and teenagers, each needing the safety, stability and support that a family can provide.

To recognise the invaluable contribution foster carers make, Glasgow City Integration Joint Board recently approved increased fostering fees, reflecting the important role carers play in supporting some of the city's most vulnerable children.

Foster carers and adopters come from all walks of life and bring a wide range of experiences and skills to the role. While people often assume fostering requires specialist qualifications or previous childcare experience, the most important qualities are patience, understanding, resilience and a commitment to helping children thrive. Full training, guidance and support are provided throughout the fostering and adoption journey.

The impact foster carers and adopters have on children's lives can be profound. Often, it is the everyday moments that matter most: creating positive memories, celebrating achievements, supporting school attendance and building confidence. These experiences help children feel valued, safe and supported.

Every day, Glasgow's foster carers provide nurturing love, stability and support to children and young people. However, for many children, fostering is one stage of a wider journey. When care plans identify adoption as the best long-term outcome, children need adoptive parents who can offer them a permanent, loving home at the right time in their lives. Families for Children is currently facing similar challenges in recruiting adoptive families, making it more important than ever that people consider whether they could help through fostering, adoption or by encouraging others to find out more.

Many foster carers and adopters describe their role as one of the most rewarding things they have ever done. As well as making a difference to a child's life, they often speak about the positive impact the experience has had on their own families and communities.

Even if fostering or adoption is not something you have considered personally, you may know someone who could provide a loving home to a child or young person. By sharing information with friends, family members, neighbours or colleagues, you can help Families for Children reach people who could make a lasting difference.

To find out more please contact the Families for Children team on **0345 276 5555** or visit **www.fosterglasgow.org**

## Mental health support for children and young people in Glasgow

Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) funds mental health provision that is quickly and easily accessible to a range of children and young people dependent on their needs. To help support children and young people in Glasgow to access the right mental health supports and services, a guide to community and clinical services has been provided.

Our online services Kooth and Togetherall have been renewed until March 2027. Both services are evidence-based, clinically moderated, 24/7 online peer to peer mental health communities, commissioned by our HSCP and freely available to young people with a Glasgow postcode.

Young people aged 10 to 15 can self-refer to online service Kooth. In addition to chatting with qualified counsellors through the text-based service, they can message the team any time, join fully moderated support forums, read the online magazine and utilise other self-help tools.

Kooth supports young people with anything they're going through, including body image, self-esteem, bereavement, academic pressures, suicidal thoughts, friendships, bullying, low mood and anxiety. Visit the website at www.kooth.com

Young people aged 16 to 23 can self-refer to online service Togetherall. Togetherall can be used for anyone experiencing concerns with their mental health, low level anxiety and depression, join support forums and use their self-help guides. Visit the website at www.togetherall.com

Barry Syme, Principal Educational Psychologist, Glasgow City Council said: "Evidence has shown that online services such as Togetherall reached at-risk and hard to reach young people in Glasgow who do not use traditional services."

Young People said about Togetherall: "Knowing I am not alone in this is so helpful, I am able to share without fear with people who understand me."

Barbara Adzajlic, Health Improvement Lead within our HSCP said: "Quality assured, online mental health support is an important part of a range of services the HSCP is funding to improve and support young people's mental health. Kooth and Togetherall offer hundreds of young people free and quick access to information, advice and support."

In addition, our HSCP commissions the Young People's Compassionate Distress Response Service (CDRS). This is an alternative, non-medical response for young people aged 16 to 25 (26

if care experienced) experiencing acute emotional distress. Following referral via a range of pathways including GP practices, CAMHS, Youth Health Service, Social Work and Education, young people are called by a Distress Response Worker within 24 hours. They receive compassionate listening and distress alleviation, and follow-up for up to 4 weeks.

For more information gamh mental health support and recovery.

NHS 24 mental health services are also available to everyone in Scotland, of all ages. The services offered include listening, offering advice and guiding to further help if required.

## Annual Performance Report and Demographics and Needs Profile

The Glasgow City Integration Joint Board's tenth Annual Performance Report (APR) and Demographics and Needs Profile are now available. The APR reviews performance during 2025/26 against local and national indicators, highlighting key achievements, areas for improvement, financial performance and progress in delivering the Strategic Plan. The Demographics and Needs Profile supports service planning and delivery by setting out current and projected population estimates for the city. It also includes information about the health of Glasgow's residents and wider factors that can affect health and wellbeing.

## News

We also regularly publish news articles and briefings / bulletins on our website about specific topics or work happening across our HSCP with partners – whether it be about current services, service developments or achievements to celebrate. If you would like to have something featured, please email GCHSCP_Communications@glasgow.gov.uk. Some recent news items include:

- Spotlight on Falls Week 2026
- Working together to shape sustainable health and social care services
- Young carers enjoy a summer to remember through partnership working
- Glasgow's Recovery event returns for second year to show people do recover
- Glasgow City HSCP completes digital community alarm transformation ahead of national switch-off
- Working together to prevent homelessness among care experienced young people
- New video demonstrates iPhone Emergency SOS: supporting safety across Care Services
- Suicide Prevention Week 2026
- Join us for Meander for Mental Health 2026
- Going the extra mile for Dementia Charities
- Minister visits Gorbals GP Practice to learn about impact of Community Link Workers

## Meetings & Events

We have regular meetings and events to discuss and / or make decisions about health and social care in Glasgow. More information about them with upcoming dates is available below:

- Glasgow City Integration Joint Board (IJB)
- IJB Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee
- IJB Public Engagement Committee