

# Falling through the net: reflecting on partnerships and how they support communities

Edinburgh Napier  
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**FAiR**

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# Introductions

**Stuart Clarke** (FAIR service user and Board Member)

**Mark Horsburgh** (Voyage Care)

**Philip McAtear** (Voyage Care service user and Committee Member)

**Dawn Smith** (Public Engagement Manager, Edinburgh Napier University and Trustee for Be Healthy Together)

**Kimberley Swan** (Chief Executive, FAIR, Co-Convenor of Coalition of Carers and Chair of the Edinburgh Disability Forum)

**Diane Willis** (Lecturer, Edinburgh Napier University and Chair of FAIR)



# Napier Community-based research projects, 2024/5

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|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Total annual budget | <b>£70,000</b> |
|---------------------|----------------|

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|                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Number of projects | <b>22</b> |
|--------------------|-----------|

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|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Number of participants | <b>3046</b> |
|------------------------|-------------|

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|                            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Hours of researchers' time | <b>507</b> |
|----------------------------|------------|

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Midlothian  
Community  
Action AI  
workshop

Balgreen  
Primary  
School  
human rights  
workshops

Robot  
workshops  
with Passion  
4 Fusion

Sustainable  
energy  
workshops  
with Scouts

HPV vaccine  
workshops in  
secondary  
schools

Book launch  
with  
get2together

Surfing and  
the  
Menopause  
at Lost Shore

Family  
history and  
midwives in  
Highlands  
libraries

Comic design  
about  
immigration  
with  
Refuweegee

Hearing aid  
drop-ins with  
Grassmarket  
Community  
Centre

Emotional  
Intelligence  
with  
Midlothian  
SureStart

Edinburgh  
Climate  
Festival with  
ELREC

Biology and  
birds with  
WHALE Arts  
youth group

Interactive  
design young  
deaf  
community

Child Poverty  
community  
research

Music  
lessons in  
rural  
communities

Sound design  
workshop  
with local  
theatre group

Compost  
festival in Fife

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Public  
Engagement  
with Research



# Family Advice Information Resource

FAiR was set up in 1991 by parents and carers. It is an independent specialist charity. Its vision is that people with learning disabilities and their families to live fair and full lives with no barriers to accessing information and services.

FAiR provides:

advice and information including a Welfare Rights Service

project work to promote positive mental and physical health

an Easy Read newsletter

co-production and consultation services

an Easy Read design service

# FAIR's impact in 2025



1900 total cases – an increase of over 15% from 2024

1192 cases in relation to welfare rights and benefits

Financial awards for clients of over £2,308,800.

FAIR and Well group arranged 45 social events and gatherings held for people with learning disabilities and their carers

# How many people have a learning disability?



Mencap estimates approximately 2.16% of adults and 2.5% of children across the UK have a learning disability.

Estimated 59,000 adults and 25,000 children in Scotland have a learning disability

Estimated 5,600 adults and 2,400 children in Edinburgh have a learning disability

# How does having a learning disability affect someone's health?



People with learning disabilities die 23 (women) and 20 (men) years earlier than those without learning disabilities

Within the last 10 years there has been an increase in avoidable deaths in people with learning disabilities rising from 38% (Heslop et al 2013) to 42% (LeDeR, 2026)

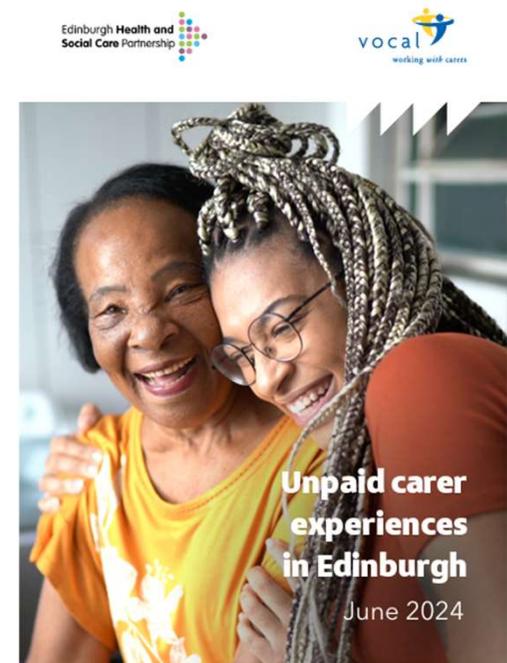
This report noted that 38.6% of adults who died lived in most deprived areas. Avoidable death attributed to delay in treatment (37.2%), organisational systems (36.3%) and (23.2%) experienced gaps in their care provision

# What support to people with learning disabilities need?

**FAiR**

The number of people with learning disabilities, their poorer health outcomes and expanding gaps in statutory provision calls for an increase in public funding rather than cuts to services for this vulnerable and hard to reach group.

Cutting and reducing services will also see an increase in expectation and reliance on unpaid carers who will be compromising their own health and wellbeing as a result. Evidence of this can be found in the recently published EHSCP Carers Survey report.



# What is the value and impact of FAIR's services?



Stuart's personal experience of FAIR, as a service user and board member



# 2024 October: Integrated Joint Board Cuts

**DEMONSTRATION AGAINST CUTS TO 64 VITAL EDINBURGH CHARITIES INCLUDING**

**FAiR**



**FRIDAY 1ST NOV 9AM  
EDINBURGH CITY  
CHAMBERS**



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### More than 60 Edinburgh charities face 'devastating' £4.5m funding cuts

21 October 2024 by Emily White

Just 30 days' notice was given to affected charities, with one organisation describing the move as "wholly unprofessional"; the funding body says it has to make "necessary decisions"



Edinburgh's health and social care partnership has proposed a "devastating" £4.5m funding cut for 64 charities, giving just 30 days' notice to the affected organisations.

The Edinburgh Integration Joint Board, which directs the city's health and social care partnership, has proposed plans to cut its grants programme next year and bring forward the funding's withdrawal end date by two months.

Employees of the funding have criticised the "devastating" funding cut with one community charity, the People Project, describing the 30-day notice period as "wholly unprofessional".

The IJCB grants programme was established in 2012 as a three-year scheme, which awarded £4 million to voluntary organisations a share of an annual £2m fund.

The programme was extended due to continued disruption from the Covid-19 pandemic and has been running for nearly six years.

The fund was later reduced to £4.5m as part of the IJCB's savings plan and was due to close at the end of March 2024, but documents show the IJCB is planning to end the funding two months early.

**Pounds & Purpose**  
12 February 2026

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Mentimeter

# How have you, your organisation or community been affected by funding cuts?

All responses to your question will be shown here

Each response can be up to 200 characters long

Turn on voting to let participants vote for their favorites



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Responses are hidden  
Waiting for participants



Menti

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# Making a film

Philip's experience of co-creating and starring in a film



# Partnerships: what's happening now?



Organisations entering formal partnerships/merging



Formation of the Third Sector Reference Group



Following the proposed cuts in October 2024, the Edinburgh Integrated Joint Board (EIJB) voted against the planned in-year cuts.



Edinburgh Council to award a Resilience Fund and Income Max fund 2025/26



Third Sector Reference Group has worked with EIJB to look at future commissioning models, but these will be under 'Invest to Save' and evidence reduced spending for EIJB.



What is the future? Fair Funding?



# Thank you!



**Falling Through The Net**

Thursday 19 March

North Edinburgh Arts

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