



Position Statement

Positive Behaviour Support

The Scottish Commission for People with
Learning Disabilities

October 2020



The wellbeing of people with learning/intellectual disabilities is paramount for SCLD. We are a values-based organisation and our human rights-based approach and policy of safeguarding inform everything we do. We consider Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) to be fundamentally aligned with these values. In our view, through providing an approach to improving people's quality of life, PBS promotes respect and dignity for people with intellectual/learning disabilities and supports the realisation of their human rights.

SCLD believes that PBS is an evidence-based and whole-system approach to supporting people with complex support needs. It is not a single intervention but rather a person-centred approach which puts people at the centre, working in partnership with the person and their family to enable the right support to be provided at the right time.

PBS relates directly to many key articles in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD) including protecting a person's integrity, freedom of degrading treatment or punishment, freedom from exploitation and violence; living independently and being included in the community; respect for privacy and respect for home and the family. Additionally, the values underpinning PBS, which promote inclusion, choice, participation and equality of opportunity closely mirror the guiding principles of the UNCRPD.

The Coming Home report, published by the Scottish Government in 2018, highlighted PBS as a well-established, internationally recognised approach and evidenced its effectiveness in supporting people with complex needs and behaviours which are perceived as challenging. PBS has also been recommended by a range of good practice guidelines following the Winterbourne View scandal and the development of the Transforming Care agenda in England.

Following the publication of the Coming Home report, the Scottish Government made a Ministerial commitment in the *Keys to Life Implementation Framework 2019-21* to support the development of PBS in Scotland. It also took forward the report recommendation to develop a PBS Community of Practice (COP). As part of SCLD's work as a delivery partner of the Keys to Life strategy, we facilitate the steering group for the COP which includes professionals and family carers who have experience and expertise in PBS.

The PBS Community of Practice for Scotland is a forum for people who have a common interest in PBS. The aim is to create a network where people are encouraged to learn from each other, to share resources, and to engage in discussions and dialogue about PBS in order to improve the quality of life for people with learning disabilities in Scotland. The COP does not seek to impose one model of support at the expense of others, nor will it act in ways which are contrary to the human rights and wellbeing of people with learning/intellectual disabilities.

In recognising that all behaviours have meaning and the importance of communication, PBS seeks to understand people's behaviour and communication with a view to improving support, changing structures, cultures, environments, and empowering people. By offering less restrictive alternatives to physical restraint and psychotropic medication, PBS can play an important role in developing effective community-based support to individuals currently living in hospitals.

It is for these reasons that SCLD is convinced of the potential for PBS to enhance the well-being of people with complex needs in Scotland and increase their opportunities to participate in activities, learn new skills and lead independent, interesting and meaningful lives.



The Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities 2020

Suite 5.2 Stock Exchange Court
77 Nelson Mandela Place
Glasgow
G2 1QY

E: admin@sclد.co.uk T: 0141 248 3733

T: @SCLDNews Fb: @ScotCommission IG: @sclدnews