

SCLD Supported Decision-Making Events

Easy Read Summary

What were the events about?



SCLD held two events to talk about **supported decision-making** in August and September.



Supported decision-making means getting help to make decisions for yourself.



We talked about what needs to change in Scotland to put in place a system of supported decision-making that works.



We talked about changes that the Scottish Government want to make to the **Adults with Incapacity Act**.



The **Adults with Incapacity Act** is a law that decides who cannot make decisions for themselves.



The changes are about helping people make their own decisions, instead of others making decisions for them.

What do people think about the changes?



Some people think the rules are good already, but the problem is that they are not always followed.



People are worried that even with the new rules, things might not change unless everyone is properly trained.



People also feel that there needs to be someone who checks that the new rules are being followed.



Some people think the changes are too small.



We need big changes to make a real difference.

Worries about Guardianship?



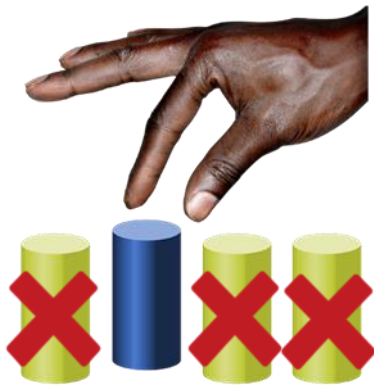
Guardianship is when someone else makes decisions for you.



Some people think too many people have guardianship when they don't need it.



Lawyers sometimes push people into guardianship when there are other options.



Guardianship can be helpful, but it should only be used when absolutely necessary.



People should be given support to make their own decisions.



People agreed that supported decision-making is better than guardianship, but worried we don't have clear rules or enough support for it to work well right now.



Some people think the system in Ireland is good.



In Ireland they have people called ombudsmen who help make sure people get the support they need to make decisions.



People need different kinds of help, and that help should be available whenever they need it.

What needs to change to make a system of supported decision-making work?



We need to train professionals better and give more information to families so they know how to support people in making decisions.



The law needs to change so that everyone starts by believing people can make decisions with support.



There should be a person or organisation who checks that the rules are being followed and makes people follow them if they are not.

What other things do we need?



We need more money, training, and support to make sure the changes work.



The new rules should be clear, and there should be people checking that they are followed.