



Editorial

Welcome to the first edition of the Neurological Alliance of Scotland's E-Bulletin. Many Alliance members have highlighted the usefulness in having a regular mechanism for communication and sharing of information and so the E-bulletin has been produced in response to this.

The E-bulletin will provide information on the work of the Alliance as well as highlight relevant issues. This may include information on the work of Alliance member organisations, relevant events, and development of publications and resources. The list is not exhaustive and members are invited to identify useful future areas of content.

This first edition provides updates to current Alliance work along with information on planned work.

Finally, the Alliance is delighted to announce that its recent funding bid to the Scottish Government Health Department was successful and we look forward to delivering a busy and effective work programme over the coming years.

Strategic Plan

The Neurological Alliance recently undertook an in-depth planning exercise to inform the development of a strategic plan to guide work and identify priorities for the Alliance.

All Alliance members were invited to participate with 11 member organisations attending a planning day in August.

The draft strategic plan is now available and will be circulated to all member organisations for information and comment. Once the plan is finalised, a copy will be sent to Scottish Government, who fund the Alliance and to other stakeholders.

Clinical Standards

NHS Quality Improvement Scotland has recently published the **Clinical Standards for Neurological Health Services**. Visit NHS QIS website or [Click here](#) to access the standards.

The standards will be formally launched in January 2010 along with a self-evaluation framework for NHS Boards and an implementation and improvement plan, detailing tools and techniques for improvement.

Central to this will be work with individual NHS Boards, healthcare professionals and the public. The Alliance will have a role in implementation and will feedback regularly on progress.

MSN Neurosurgery

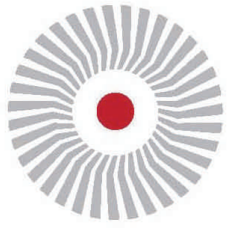
The Alliance is represented on the Strategic Board of the Managed Service Network for Neurosurgery to ensure that patient and carers needs are accounted for in the planning and delivery of neurosurgery services in Scotland.

The Dystonia Society, Headway, Stroke Association & Sue Ryder Care are also representing the Alliance on the Operational Management Group of the MSN.

Current work includes development of standards for neurosurgery on which Alliance members will be consulted.

The Neurological Alliance of Scotland Members are:

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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Action for ME | MND Scotland | The Dochas Fund |
| Alzheimer Scotland | MS Society Scotland | The Dystonia Society |
| Brainhelp | Muscular Dystrophy Campaign | The Haven |
| Capability Scotland | Pain Concern | The Stroke Association |
| Chest, Heart, Stroke Scotland | Parkinson's Disease Society | Tourette Scotland |
| Child Brain Injury Trust | PSP Association | The Towpath Trust |
| DANDA South of Scotland | Revive MS Support | Transverse Myelitis |
| Epilepsy Connections | Scottish Head Injuries Forum | Scotland Support Gp. |
| Epilepsy Scotland | Scottish Huntington's Association | |
| Epilepsy Support Group Shetland | Scottish Spina Bifida Association | |
| Epilepsy West Lothian | Speakability | |
| Headway: The Brain Association | Spinal Injuries Scotland | |
| Headway Glasgow | Sue Ryder Care | |
| ME Association | The 25% ME Group | |



Alliance News

Alliance Parliamentary Event

The Alliance is to hold an evening Parliamentary event, sponsored by Malcolm Chisholm MSP, during Brain Awareness week on 17th March 2010. The capacity for attendance is 60 and Alliance members are invited to note their interest if they wish to attend. The event will provide an opportunity for organisations and individuals to meet with MSPs and raise policy issues of common concern. It will also raise profile of the Alliance as a coalition of Scottish Voluntary sector groups which supports people affected by neurological conditions in Scotland.

The event will be used as a platform to screen a new DVD resource for the Alliance currently being developed, which will highlight common experiences and illustrate some of the non obvious and often hidden issues that patients and carers face.

A sub group of members who have particular expertise in parliamentary, policy and communications work are taking forward the planning of the event. Further details will be sent to all members in due course.

For further information and to note interest please [click here](#) to email Candice or Tel: 07540 643545

DVD Resource

As previously mentioned the Alliance intends to develop a short DVD film which will illustrate people's common needs, issues and experiences in relation to living with a neurological condition and engaging with health and social care services in Scotland. The Alliance has commissioned production agency '[Strangeboat](#)' to take forward the project.

The resource will be a useful mechanism to communicate key messages of the Alliance and as already stated, will be screened for the first time at the Alliance Parliamentary event in March 2010. It will also be available on the Alliance website where it may be of interest to a range of people.

All member organisations are invited to participate in the development of the DVD. It is envisaged that approximately 10 –15 patients and carers will be interviewed with filming taking place throughout January 2010.

For further information on the project please [click here](#) to email Candice or Tel: 07540 643545

Website

The Alliance has commissioned web design agency '[Fuzzylime](#)' to take forward the redesign and development of a new website. It is hoped that a new site will be launched during Brain Awareness Week 2010 and will further raise the profile of the Alliance.

The new website will use the existing logo but give a new 'look and feel' to the Alliance. It will provide users with information about the Alliance aims and objectives and work programme. The site will also include better information and clearer links to member organisations, downloadable relevant resources, campaign tools and news and event information. The DVD resource will be available for streaming on the website and will be of interest to a range of audiences.



Alliance Members

Executive Meetings

The Alliance has an Executive Committee of elected members who are responsible for the strategic direction of the organisation. The focus of Executive meetings is on high level decision making. Members are elected at the Alliance AGM though it is possible to co-opt members to the Executive throughout the year. If you are interested in being elected to the Executive please [click here](#) to contact Candice.

Minutes of Executive meetings are now available on the Alliance website. The E bulletin will be circulated following Executive meetings and will contain a direct link to the most recent minutes. To access the minutes of the most recent meeting held on 3rd November [click here](#).

Member subscriptions

Thank you to all members who have recently renewed their membership to the Alliance. We are still awaiting completed membership forms and subscriptions from some member organisations. The PO box for the Alliance is now functioning properly after some initial problems which meant that unfortunately some member subscriptions were returned. Apologies if this has affected you.

If you haven't already sent in your renewed membership or have not re-sent a returned form and wish to remain a member of the Alliance, please complete and return the membership form with the appropriate fee. This can be downloaded [here](#) via the Alliance website.

New Members

We will shortly be sending out invitations to a number of organisations across Scotland who may wish to join us as members of the Alliance. Benefits to becoming a member of the Alliance include:

- *Synergy on common issues relating to people affected by neurological conditions*
- *Involvement in national initiatives, providing opportunities for raising organisations' profile to a broader audience*
- *Opportunities for collaborative working and sharing of information, expertise, and experiences.*
- *Opportunities to influence and prioritise the Alliance campaign objectives, policy and work*

If you are aware of a voluntary organisation who may be interested in joining the Alliance please let us know.

Networking

The Alliance is keen to ensure that member organisations are given the opportunity to come together to discuss common issues and to share information and expertise, practice and experiences. It is envisaged that during Autumn next year, a members networking event will be hosted by the Alliance, giving members a chance to hear more about each others work, share resources and participate in discussion. Further information will be available next year. In the meantime, please feel free to contact us if you have information you wish to share with the Alliance membership.