

**Neurological Alliance of Scotland welcomes Scottish Government’s first ever 5 year plan to improve care and support for one million Scots with conditions affecting the brain and spine**

The Neurological Alliance of Scotland has welcomed the Scottish Government’s new national Framework for Action for Neurological Care and Support, which is published today.

The group calls it an ambitious starting point for transforming the experience of an estimated one million people in Scotland who are living with conditions affecting the brain and spine, as well as the unpaid carers who support them.

The Neurological Alliance of Scotland is an umbrella body of organisations and groups representing people living with or affected by a neurological condition. Together we enable neurological organisations/groups to campaign together and speak with an influential voice.

**Rebecca Duff, Chair of the Neurological Alliance of Scotland said**:

“Neurological conditions can be extremely challenging to live with, and have a huge - and often long term - impact on individuals and their families. They are often disabling, and affect an estimated one million people in Scotland - one fifth of our population. Yet despite the personal and population impact of these conditions, neurological care and support has been fragmented, and has not had the focus and priority that it needs.

“As charities working with people affected by neurological conditions, we welcome this new framework. It’s great that we finally have an action plan to improve the care and support people receive - and that there is a spotlight on neurological conditions at last.

“We are delighted that the plan is supported across Scottish Government, and we are really looking forward to working with others on implementation from early next year.

“We believe that today’s plan is an ambitious and promising first step to transforming the experience of people with neurological conditions in Scotland and the unpaid carers who support them. We want the plan to meet its potential, and look forward to playing our part as a key partner in its implementation. We will be keen to make sure that the implementation programme receives the investment it needs to deliver renewed collaboration across sectors and make real, lasting changes for those living with neurological conditions in Scotland.”

**ENDS**