Independent Living – A Shared Vision

This statement is jointly signed by the Scottish Government, COSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities) and the Independent Living in Scotland (ILiS) Steering Group. It sets out our agreed vision, based on the core principles of choice, control, freedom and dignity, that disabled people across Scotland will have equality of opportunity at home and work, in education and in the social and civic life of the community.

The Scottish Government, local government and the Independent Living in Scotland Steering Group are committed to working together, as equal members of the Independent Living Core Reference Group. Our commitment to independent living for all disabled people in Scotland is founded on our belief that it is the right thing to do, and it is in Scotland’s interest:

- It is right for the individual – to be free from prejudice and discrimination; and to participate within society as full and equal citizens;
- It is right for society as a whole – a more equal society will have greater strength and social cohesion; and
- It is right for our economy – the more diverse an economy, the more innovative and high growth it is; and the more successful it will be at attracting talent.

We have much to learn from one another, and our working partnership is based on a model of co-production and inclusion. We recognise that there is scope to deliver lasting change for disabled people living and working in Scotland. This can only be achieved by thinking and acting aspirationally and by ensuring that all voices carry equal weight and are well respected. This approach will help deliver our shared vision across our respective areas of responsibility.
Our vision and objectives fits strongly with the National Performance Framework and with the Single Outcome Agreements, agreed by Community Planning Partnerships across Scotland. We will work to make these outcomes inclusive of independent living principles and practices, so that disabled people can be an integral part of Scotland’s future development as a country of equality of opportunity and quality of life for all of its citizens.

We believe that by working with disabled people, the Scottish Government, local authorities and their community planning partners across Scotland will be better equipped to identify the best approach to achieving agreed outcomes, making the most effective investment of resources and taking account of the priorities and needs of all of local communities.

Our overall objective is to deliver real choice and control for disabled people in all areas of life and all parts of Scotland. We recognise that this will require continued effort by all partners. It will take time to achieve this vision, but this joint statement is an important milestone in developing the shared strategic approach that will make it a reality.

Jim Elder-Woodward
Convenor, Independent Living in Scotland Steering Group

Cllr Ronnie McColl
COSLA Spokesperson for Health and Wellbeing

Alex Neil MSP
Minister for Housing and Communities

8 December 2009
Independent Living – A Shared Vision

Easyread

This statement is signed by the Scottish Government, COSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities) and the Independent Living in Scotland (ILiS) Steering Group.

We agree that independent living is about choice, control, freedom and dignity.

This is what we want for disabled people in Scotland – at home, at work and in the community.

The Scottish Government, local government and the Independent Living in Scotland Steering Group will work together.

We will be equal members of the Independent Living Core Reference Group.

We believe that independent living for all disabled people in Scotland is the right thing to do.

- It is right for each person – to have equality – no prejudice or discrimination;

- It is right for all people – more equality means we are stronger together;

- It is right for our economy – more diversity means more success.
We have a lot to learn from one another and we will work together as equal partners.

We want to make changes for disabled people that will last.

We want the best. To get the best we must listen equally to everyone. We will do this across all of our work.

The Scottish Government has a National Performance Framework and National Outcomes

Local Authorities and Community Planning Partnerships in Scotland have Single Outcome Agreements.

We believe that Independent living fits into all of these.

We will work to make independent living part of these national outcomes.

We want disabled people to be part of Scotland's future where everyone is equal.
We believe that we can make better decisions if we work with disabled people.

We believe this can help us use money and resources in a better way for everyone.

Most of all we want disabled people to have real choice and control in all areas of their life and all parts of Scotland.

We know that this will take time and we will have to keep working together.

We believe this joint statement is an important step that will make independent living real.

Jim Elder-Woodward
Convenor, Independent Living in Scotland Steering Group

Cllr Ronnie McColl
COSLA Spokesperson for Health and Wellbeing

Alex Neil MSP
Minister for Housing and Communities

8 December 2009
We believe that we can make better connections if we make more connections. People need to be involved in the process of decision-making and be made aware of the potential benefits. This will involve setting up forums and working groups to ensure that all views are heard.

We acknowledge that this will take time and we will need to be patient. However, we are committed to the long-term benefit and will continue to work towards this goal.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

[Name]

[Position]

[Organization]