

Thursday 30 October 2025

Apex Grassmarket Hotel
Edinburgh
and online

Supported by Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks



PROGRAMME

9.00 am	Arrival and Registration Delegates can enjoy tea, coffee and pastries and visit our stallholders
9.45 am	Welcome from the Chair - Professor Kezia Dugdale Associate Director of the Centre for Public Policy, University of Glasgow
	Morning Session Debate and Discussion Panel
9.55 am	Introductory remarks from panel members: Councillor Paul Kelly, Spokesperson for Health and Social Care, COSLA Kate Hogarth, Chief Executive, Shared Care Scotland Sara Redmond, Chief Officer of Development, Health and Social Care Alliance (the Alliance)
10.10 am	Debate, Discussion and Q&A: Today and in future years, the Scottish Parliament, local authorities, other public bodies, and third and community sectors must work together to build on and develop the support that unpaid carers, need in navigating the complexities of caring. This includes connecting unpaid carers with support in their communities, and working with unpaid carers and carers organisations to deliver the planned right to a break from caring in ways that meet the diversity of unpaid carers and caring experience, including for those with protected characteristics.
11.25 am	Debate closing remarks from speakers

11.40 am	A view from the Festival Young Carer Media Team
11.55 am	Morning closing remarks Professor Kezia Dugdale, Chair
12.00 pm	Lunch, Exhibitors and Engagement Zone
	Visit the exhibitor stands and take part in engagement zone SSEN Marie Curie Scotland Shared Care Scotland and Respitality Age Scotland Mental Welfare Commission Alzheimer Scotland (NDCAN) Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland National Carer Organisations Social Security Scotland
1.25pm	Welcome back and introduction to the afternoon Chair, Professor Kezia Dugdale
	Afternoon Session Debate and Discussion Panel
1.30 pm	Introductory remarks from panel members: Tom Arthur MSP, Minister for Social Care and Mental Wellbeing Emma Jackson, Head of Social Justice, Citizens Advice Scotland Paul Johnston, Chief Executive, Public Health Scotland Hayley Burton, Senior Employment Manager, Carers Scotland

1.50pm	Debate, Discussion and Q & A: The Scottish Parliament must ensure that unpaid carers can live full lives, with adequate income, opportunities to be in employment or further education, to have good health and to have the support they need to achieve these.
2:30pm	Coffee break
2:45pm	Debate and Discussion Panel continues Emma Jackson, Head of Social Justice, Citizens Advice Scotland Paul Johnston, Chief Executive, Public Health Scotland Hayley Burton, Senior Employment Manager, Carers Scotland
3.15 pm	Plenary session led by Professor Kezia Dugdale, Chair What has been achieved - reflections on the past 5 years – and what are your priorities for the next 5 years.
3.45 pm	Summary of the day and next steps Professor Kezia Dugdale, Chair
4.00 pm	Close