

# The keys to life



POSITIVE BEHAVIOURAL SUPPORT IN SCOTLAND



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
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During 2016, the Scottish Government commissioned a project to understand Positive Behavioural Support (PBS) within a Scottish context. PBS is increasingly regarded as best practice in the support of people with learning disabilities with complex needs, who display behaviours of concern, sometimes referred to as 'challenging behaviours'. There is a developing body of evidence for its use to support people with learning disabilities and challenging behaviours, with an emphasis on providing an improved quality of life for individuals.

The project was led by Dr Anne MacDonald who met with a range of stakeholders throughout Scotland between October 2016 and March 2017 to ascertain views about PBS and their experience of its use. During March and April 2017 a survey to explore the use of PBS in learning disability services in Scotland was sent to representatives from Health and Social Care Partnerships, social care providers, from both the third sector and private providers, and carers' organisations. Based on these conversations and findings from the survey, a range of recommendations have been made for the development of PBS in Scotland.



### Development of a PBS Pathway

A PBS Pathway will be developed to provide guidance for how PBS should be implemented and to describe the steps involved in a PBS approach. This will detail the specific competencies required to implement PBS, and will outline methods for monitoring and evaluating its implementation.



### Development of a PBS Training Strategy

A strategy for PBS training and skilling up of the learning disability workforce will be developed for the sector, including health, social care, and third sector organisations. Developing learning materials for family carers will also be explored. This will address the need for the development and roll-out of a range of PBS learning materials, including accredited PBS training, at a range of levels to link in with previously identified PBS competencies. Partnership will be sought with a Scottish university to develop and deliver accredited PBS programmes.



### Children and Young People

The current project has focused on the use of PBS with adults with learning disabilities. It is acknowledged that further work needs to be done in order to take forward the use of PBS with children and young people with learning disabilities, both within education settings and also with family carers. Further work will be considered by the Scottish Government to address this.



### Establishing a Community of Practice

A PBS Community of Practice will be established to lead on the development of PBS practice throughout Scotland. This will be open to all professionals in learning disability across health, social care and education, as well as to academics and researchers in the field, commissioners of services and inspectors, and family carers. The Community of Practice will focus on supporting the implementation of PBS, providing guidance in relation to training standards, and developing best practice in PBS.



**For more information contact:**  
**Dr Anne MacDonald**  
**PBS Project Lead**  
**M: 07867 375283**  
**E: [anne.macdonald3@gov.scot](mailto:anne.macdonald3@gov.scot)**

