



ANNUAL REVIEW

2020/2021

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Epilepsy Scotland works with people
living with epilepsy to ensure their
voice is heard.

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MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

This year has been a year like no other. For Epilepsy Scotland, it has been a combination of challenging, busy, and exciting. It has also been a time of opportunity. The COVID-19 pandemic affected us all individually and collectively. Our work and how we do it, our personal lives, and our communities, all impacted by the pandemic in some way.

However, despite the unprecedented challenges, Epilepsy Scotland swiftly responded and adapted. Our talented team continued to champion epilepsy and support people affected by the condition, especially when the impact of the pandemic was a significant consideration.

In 2019, we celebrated 65 years of providing support to those living with epilepsy. Our 2018/19 Annual Review highlighted our adaptability, commenting, 'changing with the times is a key to success'.

As I reflect on the past year, it is clear this sentiment has never been more fitting. I would add it has never been more important to drive that change. We have harnessed this opportunity for change, embracing the digital world brought about by the pandemic. We hope to offer our services in person and virtually in the future and our staff will be able to work more flexibly, blending home and office working.

Although the pandemic posed many challenges, we used the opportunity to review our work, make change where necessary and demonstrate our resilience as individual members of the Epilepsy Scotland team and as an organisation. We learned valuable lessons, many of which will continue to shape our work in the future.

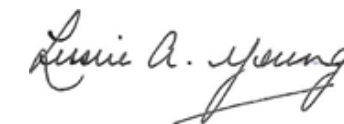
.....
"Changing
with the
times is a
key to
success."
.....

Epilepsy Scotland has received vital support from individual fundraisers, Trust Funds, and corporate organisations over the past year. Without the flexibility of all funders, we would have been unable to respond to the challenges and inevitable changes in the way we have. Your continued support and adaptability allowed us to continue to provide a high level of support to the epilepsy community, improving the lives of those we represent. For all that, I thank you.

Change and challenge is never easy. This year has provided change and challenge in abundance. In spite of that our dedicated, passionate supporters have been inspirational in their efforts. Their generosity through volunteering, fundraising, and so very kindly remembering us through legacies is hugely appreciated.

I have already mentioned the Epilepsy Scotland team. This group of extraordinarily talented, creative, and dedicated individuals work tirelessly to achieve the very best for those living with epilepsy. Equally, our volunteer Board of Trustees who give of their time, knowledge, and expertise do similarly and I thank them all.

This report showcases some of Epilepsy Scotland's remarkable achievements in the past year. I hope you enjoy reading our 2020/21 Annual Review.



Lesslie Young
CEO



Lesslie Young
CEO

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HELPLINE AND INFORMATION

Our Helpline and Information team are at the forefront of our organisation. They offer information and support to a wide range of people, across Scotland and beyond.

Whether people are in need of general information about epilepsy or are struggling with their mental health, the team have proved to be a vital lifeline to many throughout the pandemic. Our callers agree...

"Thank you so much for your response and doing it so, so quickly! This definitely reassures me much more... It's good that we have platforms like yourselves to be able to come for advice, really appreciate it so much!"

HELPLINE SERVICE

Our helpline service is designed to be as accessible and inclusive as possible.

People have the option to access this service via our freephone helpline, by email, through social media and through text messaging. Our unique service allows people to be anonymous and we never put a time limit on our calls.

This year, popular topics have included services and support, benefits, employment, treatment, mental health and emotional support, and COVID-19.



CHECK-IN SERVICE

In response to COVID-19 and the additional challenges people were facing, we set up a new service to help combat loneliness, isolation, anxiety and stress.

Unlike our anonymous helpline, our Check-in Service, developed at the beginning of the pandemic, allows people to register for a weekly check-in call from one of our Helpline Officers to check on their wellbeing and talk about how the pandemic has been affecting their overall health and epilepsy.



12 people have registered with the service and we have consistently received great feedback.

"Amazing service that really helps, extremely supportive and understanding with no pressure. With the situation just now I find it a priceless service as it has kept me sane and helps with seizures."

PUBLICATIONS

Our Helpline and Information team strives to provide current and reliable information. With the everchanging nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, demand for information has only increased over the past year.

We have kept our existing factsheets and guides up to date, including our popular Epilepsy Explained guide. We have also expanded our publications, adapting to meet new demands:

- We have produced a new teen guide, distributed to Epilepsy Specialist Nurses, families, and young people via our youth services.
- We have created a factsheet on COVID-19 and epilepsy which is regularly updated.
- We have produced factsheets on the new Child Winter Heating Assistance and Scottish Child Payment to reflect the rollout of new benefits across Scotland.

Our publications are available to everyone: people with epilepsy, employers, teachers, parents and professionals. An appreciative Epilepsy Specialist Nurse recently commented,

"Thanks very much for the consignment of Epilepsy Explained booklets....most useful for people coming via the First seizure clinic as they are so comprehensive."

EVENTS

This year we moved our events online. Adapting with the restrictions of the pandemic, we hosted ten virtual information sessions targeting specific health board areas.

We also held six virtual coffee mornings which provided a more informal setting for people to come together, share experiences, and ask questions.

These online events have proved successful, reaching more geographically diverse audiences. We look forward to hosting and attending more events virtually and in person in the future.



DEDICATED COMMUNICATIONS

Communicating digitally has been vital over the past year. We have used our social media platforms to connect with the epilepsy community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout the year, we have created and shared information about epilepsy and our services.

Our Communications Officer, David Coates, has worked hard to ensure we remain a trustworthy and reliable source of information, keeping people well-informed about the fast-changing impacts of the pandemic.

We have continuously monitored emerging information about epilepsy and COVID-19, regularly updating and sharing our Keeping Safe and Well factsheet.

#TALKEPILEPSY PODCAST

Our #TalkEpilepsy Podcast provides information and support for people living with epilepsy. Over the last year, we produced four podcasts. These were:

.....
EPILEPSY AND LEARNING

.....
#EpilepsyIsMoreThanSeizures

.....
LIVING WITH EPILEPSY

.....
EPILEPSY AND SPORT

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media has allowed us to keep up to date with our followers, helping us to understand the current issues faced by people affected by epilepsy.

We have made extensive use of all our social media platforms, engaging with our followers through various campaigns and by sharing important information.



All our social media channels have seen an increase in followers (1,533 new followers), with our website recording over 40,000 new users, and nearly 117,000 page views.

Adapting to the changing world, in June we joined TikTok to raise awareness of epilepsy to a younger audience.

Our Facebook support group has 865 members, providing a space for people to ask questions and find support around topics related to epilepsy.



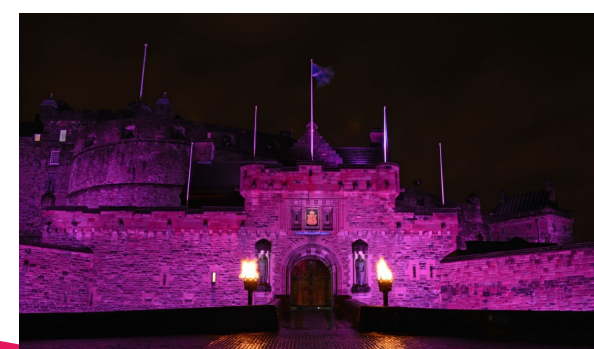
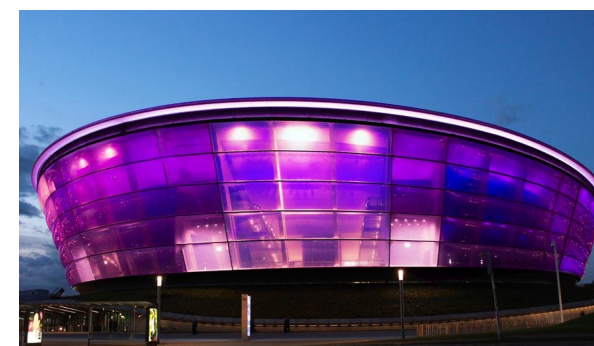
LISTENERS FROM:
Scotland, Canada, Argentina,
Australia, India and the USA

#EpilepsyIsMoreThanSeizures

National Epilepsy Week, 20-26 May, saw the launch of our #EpilepsyIsMoreThanSeizures campaign.

The campaign raised awareness of the challenges people living with epilepsy face, including anxiety, low mood/depression and issues with memory. It also explored ways to stay safe with epilepsy and cope with side effects of medication.

The campaign featured real quotes and stories from people we support, illustrating their experiences of how epilepsy affects them and the support they receive to overcome these challenges.



PURPLE DAY

Purple Day, 26th of March, is an important day for Epilepsy Scotland. It is a day dedicated to raising awareness of epilepsy across the world.

This year we enlisted the help of various celebrities, including sports presenter David Tanner, comedians Jane Godley and Ashley Storrie, actor Manjot Sumal, and Scotland rugby player Rory Sutherland, to share videos to help promote the day and raise awareness of epilepsy.

Our supporter James also got in on the action, designing his own Purple Day T-shirt and wearing it to school!



On the day, 35 landmarks across Scotland lit up purple to raise awareness of epilepsy. This included Edinburgh Castle, the SSE Hydro, and Abertay University.

We also launched a #TalkEpilepsy podcast and held a virtual coffee morning.

35 PURPLE
LANDMARKS



WELLBEING

Our Wellbeing Service aims to support the emotional wellbeing of people with epilepsy as holistically as possible.

We recognise a diagnosis of epilepsy can affect someone's mental health and when someone's mental health is affected, often too is their epilepsy.

By providing counselling, one-to-one work, information, breathing and relaxation classes and peer support groups, our service empowers participants to deal with the challenges of their diagnosis and its impact on their emotional wellbeing.

We work in a person-centred way with participants able to opt in to as many services as they wish. Many, after a while, receive training to become a Buddy Volunteer, supporting new participants when they first join a group and facilitate discussions.

Thanks to the generous support of the National Lottery Community Fund Scotland, we have been able to provide our Wellbeing Service for the last three years.

OUR SERVICES AND COVID-19

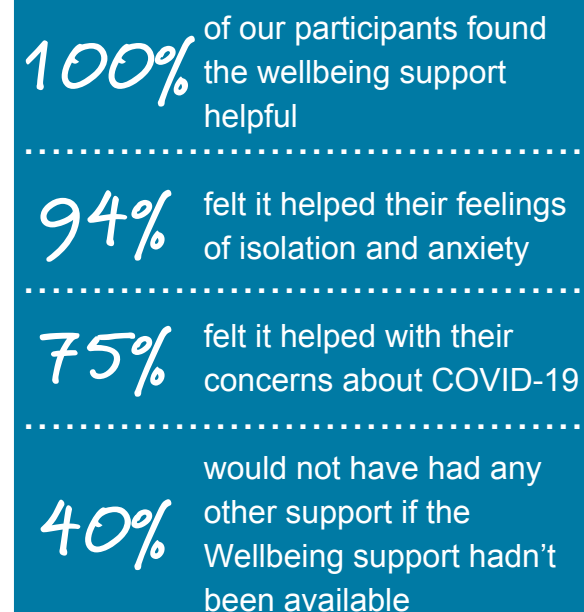
This year, more than any other, has presented challenges to our participants' wellbeing. Worries about COVID-19, financial pressures and not being able to see family or friends has made us feel more anxious and stressed than ever before.

We recognised the pandemic would have a massive impact on our participants and quickly adapted to deliver the majority of our service digitally.

Within two days of the lockdown announcement in March 2020, we had called every one of our participants and ensured they were well, had the support they needed, and had access to their prescriptions and shopping.

By the beginning of April, we were offering our one-to-one services, breathing and relaxation classes, and peer support groups virtually and by telephone.

Feedback from our participants speaks for itself.



"Thank you for yesterday, it was nice to feel like I was heard. I'm feeling much more positive – it's the first positive interaction I've had in a long time. It's given me the energy to take issues on head on."

"As I have very limited family support – I fear that I would not have been able to cope – mentally – without the support from Bruce & the Wellbeing service at Epilepsy Scotland. Bruce was extremely supportive and basically helped me through the lockdown. I really don't know what I would have done without the support. Thank you."

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

This year we introduced a short 6-12 week Wellbeing programme which we are piloting with referrals coming directly from NHS Lothian Neuropsychology clinics. This is working well and we hope to continue and expand this model of working in the coming year.

In September 2020, we were able to begin to offer a blended service, with group sessions and one-to-one appointments being held physically and virtually.

This has worked well for many of our participants and has allowed us to expand our reach. We are now working with five times as many people from outside our Glasgow base as we were before the pandemic.

5x MORE PARTICIPANTS FROM OUTSIDE GLASGOW

As we go into the next year, we will continue to offer this blended model, continuing to develop the service to best respond to the individual needs of our participants.

54 
PARTICIPANTS

1,056 
1-TO-1 SESSIONS

157 
GROUPS HELD

YOUTH SERVICES

Our dedicated Youth Service provides support and social opportunities to young people with epilepsy in Scotland.

It has been a year like no other for our Youth Service. At the beginning of 2020 our Youth Service in Glasgow restarted with Shelby Johnston at the helm. This now runs alongside our Edinburgh service, led by Kirstyn Cameron.

We quickly adapted to the pandemic and continued to provide support and social opportunities to young people with epilepsy throughout. We began to deliver our one-to-one support and group sessions online for the first time, adjusting our work to ensure we provided the much-needed supportive, fun, and safe service for young people.

This year, between April 2020 and March 2021, we have supported 83 young people.

83 YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED

595 ONE-TO-ONE MEETINGS

150 YOUTH GROUPS HELD

We are very grateful for the support from Children in Need, National Lottery, Shared Care Scotland, RS MacDonald and the John Watson Trust.



ONE-TO-ONE SUPPORT

Our one-to-one support is driven by the individual's needs. We focus on all aspects of the young person's life which may be affected by their epilepsy.

Attention is often given to mental health, memory, sleep, learning and friendships.

"It's hard to put into words just how grateful I am. [My son] has a plethora of health conditions and has been through so much in his life. He's taken everything in his stride... until Epilepsy reared its ugly head, that is I have never seen him so anxious and stressed but his regular chats with Kirstyn worked absolute wonders- so thank you so much."

78% of young people thought the support had helped them increase their confidence.

84% of young people had made new friends through the groups.

61% of young people thought the groups had helped them deal with their worries about COVID-19.

YOUTH GROUPS

Our youth groups aim to provide a safe space for young people to meet others who have epilepsy, so they feel less alone and can share their experiences.

We strive to create a varied programme of activities, responding to participants' interests and abilities, to build their independence and confidence.

"She had lost her wee sparkle for months there and I couldn't figure out what caused her to lose that amount of confidence but over the past few weeks, I can see it, it's back. This group is making such a difference for her. I can see the sparkle in her again" (Parent Feedback)

Our online activities included scavenger hunts, quizzes, memory tasks, film nights, escape rooms and cooking. Groups restarted in person towards the end of 2020 whilst we continued to run online sessions. Activities in these sessions included making tie dye T-shirts, cycling, tubing, and creating memory boxes.

"I like that they are so welcoming and always make me happy and smile and laugh. so I am thankful to have the youth group in my life."

In August we took our residential weekend online for the first time. A pizza was delivered to everyone and we watched a film together. On the second day we enjoyed a workshop with a professional animator and then had a murder mystery night to finish off the weekend.

Throughout the year we have also delivered activity packs and letters to participants, including those who are unable to access groups sessions online.

HOLLY'S STORY

Holly was encouraged to join our youth services by her mum. Holly had recently been diagnosed with epilepsy and the fear of seizures was overwhelming. Her attendance at school dropped and she no longer wanted to socialise with her peer group. Stress was a big trigger for her seizures.

Building a relationship with Holly through one-to-one support and providing a space to learn more about epilepsy helped ease some of her stresses. Holly developed enough confidence to attend our youth group which began to break down some of her fears and, for the first time since her diagnosis, she didn't feel alone.

Learning more about epilepsy and having the space to explore it with other young people has helped Holly's stress and anxiety - she is now 1 year seizure free!

GOING FORWARD

We set up a new group of Young Ambassadors to help develop our services and to raise the voice of young people with epilepsy. In January, the group virtually met with the Epilepsy Warriors, an organisation based in Malawi, and they are currently consulting on our Epilepsy Awareness talks for schools.

Looking forward, we are likely to offer some form of digital support as a permanent feature of our services. We have been able to welcome new participants who couldn't travel to our physical groups and hope to continue to expand our reach in the future.

FUNDRAISING

Our fundraisers were hugely encouraged by the determination of Epilepsy Scotland supporters who continued to fundraise, take on challenges, and host their own virtual events throughout lockdown. We are so grateful for your support.

2020 was a challenging year for our fundraisers. We really missed being out in the community, meeting people at collections and events. We know how much supporters of Epilepsy Scotland look forward to events like the Kiltwalk, Edinburgh Marathon Festival and our own fire walk and we are excited to return bigger and better when it is safe to do so.

The pandemic also presented many opportunities for our fundraising team, like the chance to embrace virtual fundraising, coming up with new ideas for people to get involved in. Many of these virtual fundraising activities will continue alongside in person events in the future, allowing us to connect with even more new supporters from further afield.

CHARITABLE TRUSTS

We are extremely grateful to all the charitable trusts and foundations that have supported our work over the course of this turbulent year. Thanks to the kindness and understanding, flexibility, help and support offered by funders, we are in a good position to confidently continue to deliver our services and be there for people affected by epilepsy.

Your support has helped us learn, adapt, and maintain our vital services and, importantly, continue to support people with epilepsy, their families, carers, and friends from across the wider community. As always, we can't thank you enough.



FUNDRAISING DURING COVID-19

After being diagnosed with epilepsy three years ago, eleven-year-old Olivia decided she wanted to raise £2019 in the year 2019. Plans ended up being put on hold with a new arrival in the family but in 2020, with the help of her sisters, Hannah, Rebecca and Noa, the girls set about creating and selling personalised hand sanitisers in their local area.

Their popular venture raised an amazing £2,100, meaning Olivia smashed her target! We love how Olivia adapted with the times and put some fun and sparkle into what is now a pocket essential.

OUR KILTIED HEROES

Our dedicated supporter Jennifer Henderson came on board in 2016. Jennifer was proud to represent Epilepsy Scotland at the Edinburgh Kiltwalk. When asked how she found the challenge, she told us:

"I was doing it for my girls and Epilepsy Scotland, that got me powering on!"

The Kiltwalk is now a permanent feature in Jennifer's calendar. Even a lockdown didn't put her off – instead it encouraged her to get her husband Neil and two girls Caitlin and Emily to join the 2020 virtual challenge. Jennifer told us it was great to get the entire family walking with her.

We are always overwhelmed by Jennifer's dedication to raising awareness and funds to help support the work of our charity.



SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT

In September 2020, the Moffat Country Fair's annual tractor road run took place with a parade of over 40 vintage tractors weaving through the countryside.

Organiser David Paton kindly chose Epilepsy Scotland to receive donations from the day, with the run raising a fantastic £750 through bucket collections and sponsorship.

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

While most of us were hibernating at the beginning of 2021, Scott Ashworth was gathering people from all over the world to tune in for his online open-mic nights. Scott told us:

"I have been doing live feeds throughout the COVID-19 situation, and decided to do this one slightly different – rather than people just making general donations, this time they could request a song for a minimum donation of £1/\$1 with it stated that all donations would go to Epilepsy Scotland."

With the hope of raising at least £200, he was overwhelmed to raise £1,127! Amazing idea and fantastic fundraising!

Thank you to everyone who attended the live Facebook event, we really appreciate all these amazing ideas our supporters keep coming up with!



EPILEPSY TRAINING

Epilepsy Scotland is one of the biggest epilepsy training providers in Scotland. We have a dynamic team of epilepsy trainers who have extensive knowledge and experience of epilepsy.

Our trainers provide a vital service, working with clients to improve understanding and awareness of epilepsy. We provide training which covers seizures, diagnosis, treatment, impact and emergency medication delivery. Our courses include:

.....
EPILEPSY AWARENESS
.....

.....
ADMINISTRATION OF
EMERGENCY MEDICATION
.....

.....
BENEFITS AWARENESS
.....

.....
SEIZURE SYNDROMES
.....

Our trainers consistently receive great feedback, with participants especially liking our enthusiasm and relatable examples.

"The content was all very clearly explained, and contained a wide range of interesting theory and information on the topic, with particularly interesting links between epilepsy, and mental health and wellbeing. It was very engaging and informative."

TRAINING IN LOCKDOWN

In March, due to the pandemic, our training diary emptied overnight. We worked hard to ensure our clients could continue to receive epilepsy training and certification and set about converting our courses into online packages.

Despite the immediate challenges of the pandemic, we only paused training delivery for two weeks. We created new materials and started by launching our Understanding Epilepsy and Administration of Midazolam course online. This continues to be our most popular course.

"Informative, well-presented, accessible, friendly, experienced and knowledgeable trainer. Appreciated the level of detail compared to previous courses on this subject that I have been on. Encouraged and praised interaction, encouraged critical thinking, responded to all questions, some group work, which was good given the Zoom format. Enjoyed hearing from and speaking to the other trainees/experts too. Excellent training."



1,500

TRAINEES THIS YEAR

THE BENEFITS OF DIGITAL

Moving our courses online has allowed us to extend our geographical reach, training individuals from Orkney, Sierra Leone, Malawi, Singapore and Alaska.

EUROPE - AFRICA



ASIA - NORTH AMERICA

It has also helped us to support the newly formed Malawi Warriors Foundation, training their Board, CEO and nursing associates in Epilepsy Awareness and Rescue Medication.

Next steps involve developing Train the Trainer resources so the organisation can continue to share this knowledge across Malawi and the wider continent.

GOING FORWARD

Throughout the year, all our courses were reconfigured into online versions and we now turn our attention to the workshops.

In 2021, we intend to take our School's Awareness Workshop online and hope to ensure that schools can access the expertise of our Youth Workers.

We will also launch an online workshop for people who have been newly diagnosed and their family and friends, to help spread awareness and coach caregivers through the correct first aid procedures.



WELFARE RIGHTS

In a year when so many of us have faced financial challenges, the work of our dedicated Welfare Rights service has never been in more demand.

The team quickly adapted to remote working and continued to provide a holistic service throughout this challenging period.

After the retirement of Frances Brown in April, our new Welfare Rights Officer, Jamie Hannah, joined the team allowing us to develop our service even further.

None of this work would be possible without the generous funding from the Bank of Scotland Foundation. We are extremely grateful for their ongoing support in improving the financial wellbeing of our clients.

OUR CLIENT WORK



Our Welfare Rights service supports people with epilepsy and their family members to maximise their household income through welfare benefits, offering guidance through the entire application to award process.

This also involves supporting clients through their anxiety about the process, advising them on what to expect at medical assessments and providing information on tribunal hearing process and procedure.

"Thank you for all your support and hard work. I'd have probably not been awarded anything if it wasn't for you. You do a fantastic job and Epilepsy Scotland is a great support to lots of families affected by epilepsy."



OUR WIDER WORK

Scotland is in the process of developing a new social security system. Part of this new system will be the Adult Disability Payment for disabled people of working age in Scotland.

Our Welfare Rights Officers have been closely following this development. Together with our Policy Team, we have provided a full response to the Scottish Government's consultation on The Disability Assistance for Working Age People (Scotland) Regulations.

We are also participating in the design of the new Adult Disability Payment claim form, sharing our expertise to create a new and fairer form which better reflects the needs of the claimant.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Going forward, we will continue to build a case law library applicable to epilepsy and associated conditions. This will be used by our Welfare Rights Officers in appeals and will help us to design and deliver training and awareness sessions to other organisations for the benefit of people affected by epilepsy.

We have already provided a telephone information session to Lanarkshire Epilepsy's support group on preparing written evidence which will best support their clients' claims and influence best outcomes.

With our second Welfare Rights Officer now firmly established, we look forward to developing more information and training sessions and hope to start delivering them to medical professionals and other welfare rights organisations soon.

65 
FORMS COMPLETED

2,279
TOTAL CONTACTS

8 
HEARINGS ATTENDED

36 Claim Forms ~ 10 Mandatory Reconsideration Requests ~ 7 SSCS1 Appeal Forms

POLICY

Epilepsy Scotland's dedicated policy team works to improve the lives of people with epilepsy by influencing policy and decision makers.

COVID-19 AND OUR WORK

Our work over the past year has been widely influenced by COVID-19. We quickly adapted to working from home and focussed our approach on monitoring and responding to how the pandemic was impacting people with epilepsy.

We stayed in touch with clinical stakeholders throughout, monitoring changes to epilepsy services and offering support where possible.

This included writing a position statement on Learning Disability and COVID-19 which was covered in the National newspaper and our main ask, to ensure all people with learning disabilities were included in priority group six for vaccination, was met by the Scottish Government one week later.

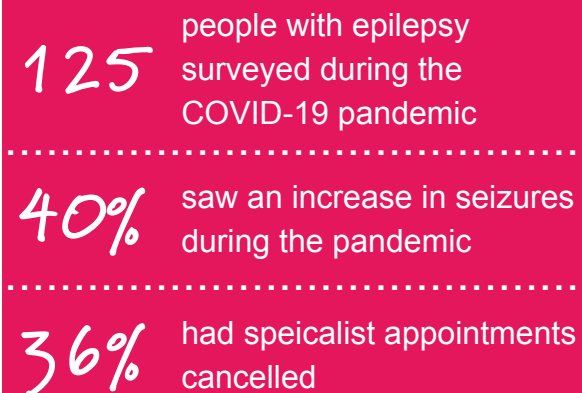
We also surveyed 125 people with epilepsy to inform our COVID-19 and epilepsy report. This report was shared with MSPs and the Scottish Government to ensure the experiences of people with epilepsy were considered in emerging policy.

OUR POLICY WORK

Throughout the pandemic we have never wavered in ensuring the experiences of people with epilepsy are heard by decision makers.

Following several months of lobbying and talks with the Dumfries and Galloway Health Board, we secured a children's epilepsy and complex needs nurse in the area. Prior to this, children with epilepsy in Dumfries and Galloway had no access to epilepsy nursing advice.

We are delighted this post has been filled and we are pleased Epilepsy Scotland was able to financially support the epilepsy training for the nurse. We would like to offer a particular thanks to Joan McAlpine MSP and her team for their support in getting this nurse in post.



THE POLICY TEAM

Anissa Tonberg, our Policy and External Affairs Manager, was approached to undertake a secondment as Senior Policy Manager in the Clinical Priorities Team at the Scottish Government. She is leading on work which will improve policy for people living with neurological conditions across Scotland. During her secondment, Rona Johnson is acting up as Interim Policy and Communications Manager and Anna Telfer has joined the team as Policy and Campaigns Assistant.

Rona succeeded Anissa as Chair of the Epilepsy Consortium Scotland and Vice Chair of the Neurological Alliance of Scotland (NAoS). Through her work with NAOs, Rona sits on the Scottish Government's National Advisory Committee for Neurological Conditions. Through these platforms, the Epilepsy Scotland policy team directly influence and shape policy affecting people with neurological conditions, including epilepsy.

OUR WIDER REACH

We continue to Chair Epilepsy Consortium Scotland and hold the Secretariat of the Cross-Party Group on Epilepsy at the Scottish Parliament.

In the last year we have held meetings on learning disability deaths, social security and vCreateNeuro. We are pleased to have delivered the meetings virtually and have found the attendance has diversified without the need to travel to Edinburgh.

The Cross-Party Group continues to be an important platform to raise and discuss issues facing people with epilepsy. We will continue with this work once the Parliament is reconvened after the Scottish Parliament election.



2021 SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT MANIFESTO

At the beginning of 2021, we launched Epilepsy Scotland's Manifesto for the 2021 Scottish Parliament Election.

As this was the sixth Scottish Parliament election, we decided to make six asks of the next group of elected MSPs and Scottish Government.

These six asks will form the foundation of our policy work over the next five years. We have already received excellent engagement from parties across the political spectrum and are looking forward to positively influencing policy which better represents people with epilepsy. Our manifesto was also featured in The National!

INCOME & EXPENDITURE



TOTAL INCOME AND GAINS

£820,484



TOTAL EXPENDITURE

£885,763



NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

-£65,279



DONATIONS, LEGACIES AND FUNDRAISING

£607,020

THE YEAR AHEAD

The past year has posed unprecedented challenges. In March 2020, we, like many other organisations, closed the doors to our offices and commenced remote working, adapting our services to meet the demands of the changing world. Despite the challenging circumstances, our team have not only risen to the challenge but have thrived, and we are very proud of that.

The adaptability of our services and the resilience of the Epilepsy Scotland team have been a testament to the strength of our organisation.

As we look forward to the coming year, we await change with eager anticipation. We will take the learnings from the pandemic and use them to plan for the future.

We are excited to implement our blended working model, giving our staff the flexibility of working from home and the office. We have a new-found enthusiasm for our in-person services and non-virtual fundraising events. We will integrate our newly formed digital services into our traditional structures, allowing us to support more people, in more areas of Scotland, than ever before.

We will commit to the digital revolution brought on by the pandemic by remodelling our website, making it more accessible to better support people affected by epilepsy.

We will build on the work of our 2021 Scottish Parliament Election campaign and develop relationships with MSPs to ensure policy is put in place to better meet the needs of people living with epilepsy in Scotland.

As we reach the end of an unimaginable year, we are stepping into 2021/22 with optimism, excitement, and a strong commitment to supporting people affected by epilepsy.

Adaptability



Resilience



Strength



THANKS

To those who helped make all of this happen

OUR FUNDERS

A special thank you to funders who helped us innovate and support the wellbeing of people with epilepsy of all ages this year.

A.M. Pilkington Charitable Trust	R S Macdonald Charitable Trust
Ann Jane Green Trust	Scottish Children's Lottery
Bank of Scotland Foundation	Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations
Cecil Rosen Foundation	Scottish Government
Children in Need	Screwfix Foundation
Connecting Scotland	The Alchemy Foundation
Corra Foundation	The James Inglis Testamentary Trust
D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust	The JTH Charitable Trust (James T Howat)
Engage Renfrewshire	The Meikle Foundation
Foundation Scotland	The Robertson Charitable Trust
Glasgow Nursing and Medical Relief Association	The St Katharine's Fund
Hugh Fraser Foundation	The Templeton Goodwill Trust
John Watson's Trust	Thistledown Trust
Miss E. C. Hendry's Charitable Trust	The Hayward Sanderson Trust
Mrs M A Black Charitable Trust	MEB Charitable Trust
National Lottery Community Fund	Shared Care Scotland
Northwood Charitable Trust	

OUR LEGACY DONORS



Thank you to those who have left a legacy to us or fundraised to remember a loved one this year. Donations in memory are a heart-warming way to remember someone and a vital source of income to help us to achieve the charity aims.



SCOTLAND'S INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS

A special thanks to Scotland's Institute of Directors who have chosen to Epilepsy Scotland as their 'Charity of the Year' again in 2021.

OUR CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

A huge thank you to the companies and staff who have supported us this year. As well as making donations, many of these companies have taken steps to make sure that their workplace is more 'Epilepsy Friendly', something that is hugely important to ensure people with epilepsy are supported in the community and at work.

akp Scotland Ltd	JP Dunn
Amazon Smile	Legal Rooms
Aviva Community Fund	M&S Dumbarton
BAE Benevolent Fund	MacKenzie, Kenneth, Mr
Co-Operative Community Fund	Neighbourly Community Fund
Cruden Foundation Limited	Paypal
easyfundraising	R3 IoT Limited
Eisai Europe Limited	Reach Shared Services
EPIC	Standard Life
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OUR BOARD

A final thank you to the dedicated volunteer members of the Epilepsy Scotland Board.

- Susan Duncan
- Kirsty Lynch
- Richard Roberts
- Ricky Murray
- Celia Brand
- Caroline Barnett
- Bryan Hislop
- Ross Bennet
- Kevin Roger



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