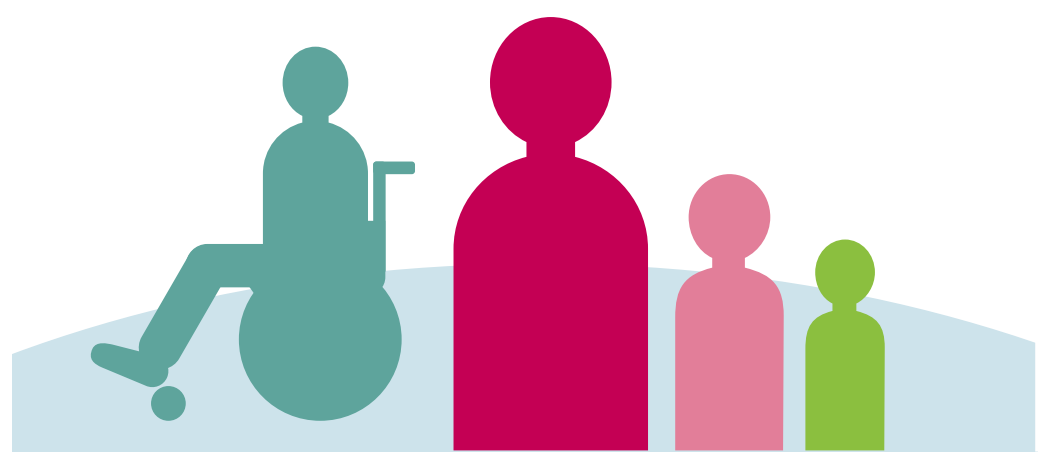# Protecting human rights in an evolving digital landscape

Background

In 2021, the ALLIANCE, Scottish Care and VOX Scotland developed five principles for a human rights-based approach to digital health and social care.

Why were the principles developed?

Technology can be an enabler of human rights, but it can also exacerbate inequalities. The pandemic led to a huge expansion in digital technology, we wanted to ensure that protections existed alongside the rapid growth.

Developing the principles

The principles were developed collaboratively, we talked to people who use digital services, those who provide services and support workers who engage with digitally excluded groups. We refined the principles based on their feedback.

From theory to practice

We listened to what people told us and identified a number of practice-based examples where the principles are already at the heart of work being delivered.

Services offering different channels for their support groups based on what worked best for their clients

Services offering a choice between online or face-to-face appointments

A respite centre supporting guests to use technology and gadgets during their stay to promote independence
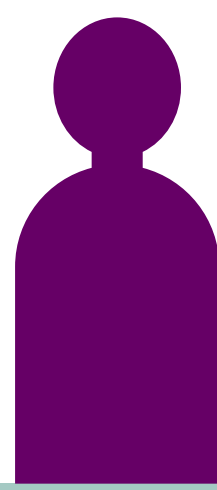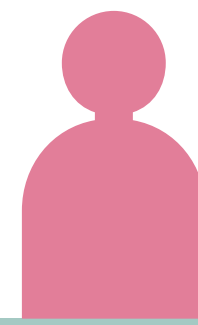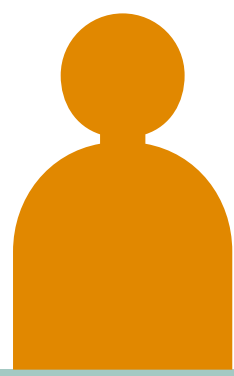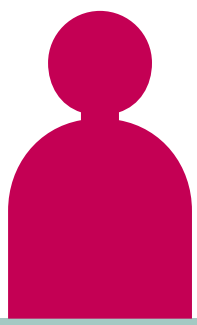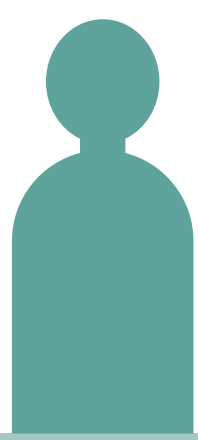
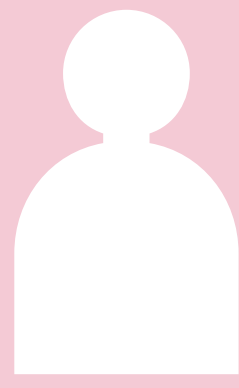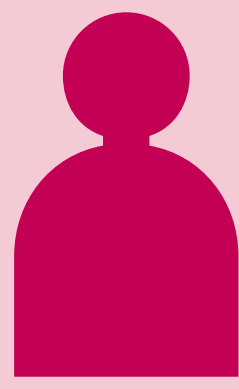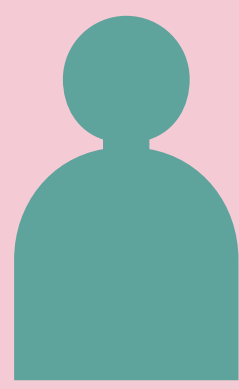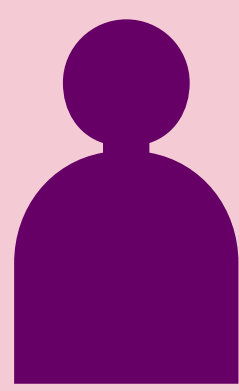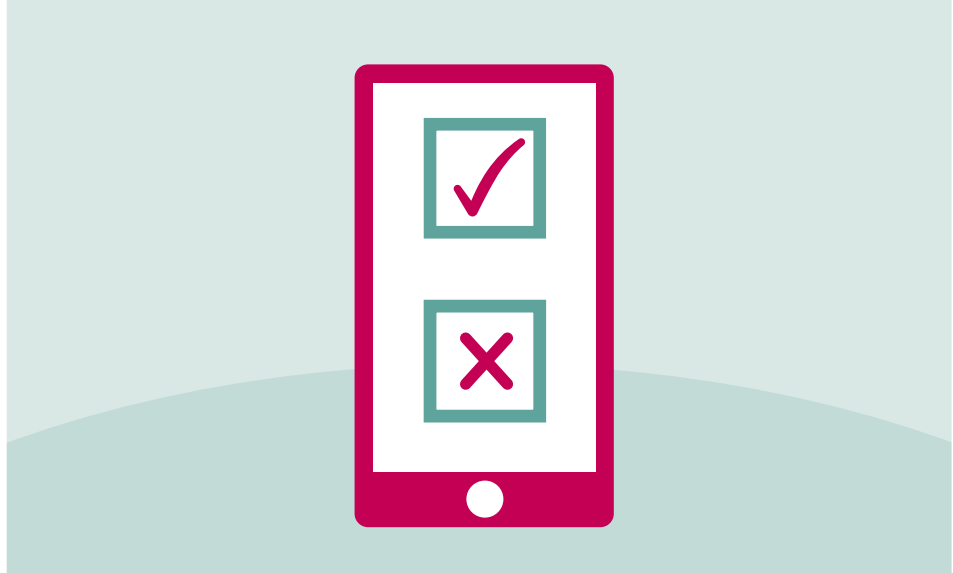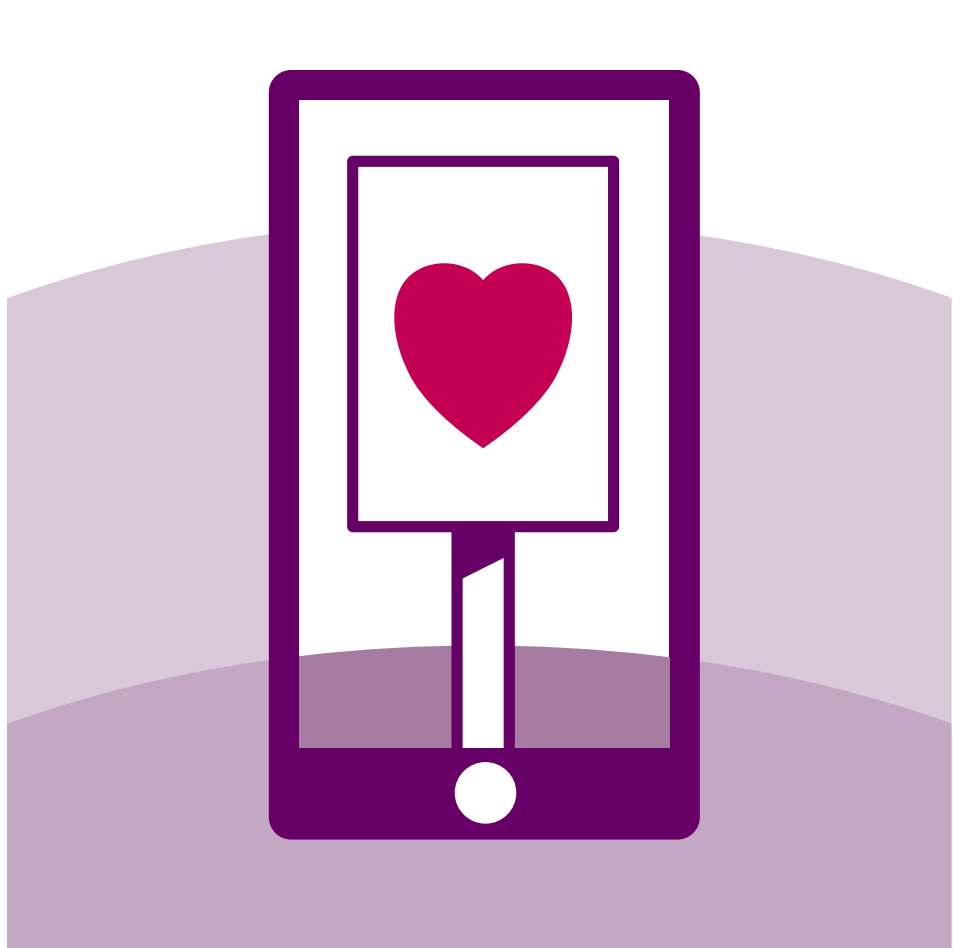① **People at the centre**

② **Digital where it is best suited**

③ **Digital choice**

④ **Digital inclusion not just widening access**

⑤ **Access and control of digital data**

We believe this will lead to a more equitable, meaningful use of technology and realise benefits for citizens as well as policy makers and service providers.

Human Rights Principles in Digital Health and Social Care

Scottish Care
Voice of the independent care sector

VOX SCOTLAND

ALLIANCE

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