



The Health and
Social Care
Alliance Scotland
(the ALLIANCE)



Lived and Living Experience Advisory Group for Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Prevention Information Pack

Introduction

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) are inviting you to register your interest to participate in a Lived and Living Experience Advisory Group for antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and infection prevention. We are looking for a small group of **15 individuals** to take part in monthly meetings between **November 2026 - March 2027 online (via Teams)** to both shape priorities and a wider national programme of engagement on AMR. We are particularly interested to hear from people with lived and living experience of anti-microbial resistance and those most at risk of its harms. AMR happens when bacteria, viruses, fungi or parasites change over time and no longer respond as well to medicines used to treat them. This can make infections harder to treat.

We are looking for people who can bring personal experience, perspectives, knowledge and insights connected to AMR and the use of anti-microbial medicines. **You do not need to be an expert in AMR or understand the science or terminology. Your experience is what matters.**

Who could take part?

We are interested in hearing from people with a range of experiences, which might include:

- Having experienced an infection that was resistant to antibiotics or another antimicrobial medicine
- Having needed treatment for a recurrent, difficult to treat or long term infection
- Having taken antibiotics, antifungals, antivirals or medicines where treatment has been complicated or unsuccessful
- Supporting or caring for someone who has experienced a resistant or difficult to treat infection



- Having experience of healthcare services in relation to infection or microbial treatment
- Having experience of infection prevention, antimicrobial use or resistance in another part of your life or community
- Other experiences that you feel are relevant to AMR.

What would the Advisory Group do?

Members will meet monthly between November 2026 - March 2027 and may be asked to:

- Share experiences and perspectives
- Identify priorities on what matters most to people affected by AMR
- Comment on ideas, materials, research or proposed approaches for national action plans and the wider engagement programme in Scotland on AMR
- Help us understand how AMR and antimicrobial use are experienced in real life
- Challenge assumptions and identify things we may have overlooked;
- Set criteria and steer for further engagement and communication including the Community Grants programme
- Suggest ways our work could be more accessible, relevant and meaningful.

Why only 15 people?

We are keeping the group small, so everyone has a meaningful opportunity to contribute and influence the work. As the group only has 15 places, we will not simply select people on a first-come, first-served basis. We will aim to bring together a mix of experiences, perspectives, backgrounds and circumstances so that the group can explore AMR from a range of viewpoints. This means that unfortunately we may not be able to offer everyone who applies a place. However, there will be other ways to engage in the wider engagement programme.



Purpose

The Lived and Living Experience Advisory Group will set priorities, help shape the national engagement programme and develop key messaging for supporting Scotland's future decision-making on AMR and its impacts. The primary goal for this work is to ensure community voices influence policy development and implementation on AMR in Scotland. As part of this advisory group, we will be discussing and making recommendations on the following:

- Public perceptions and awareness of AMR;
- Experiences of antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistant infections;
- Barriers to behaviour change and public engagement;
- How AMR messaging is received by different communities;
- How policy development can better reflect the experiences of diverse groups across Scotland; and
- Approaches and methods of engaging the public on AMR.

When and how often will we meet?

Meeting topic	Time and date	Location
Introduction to AMR and Infection Prevention Control; Experiences and Priority Setting	<u>6pm-8.30pm Tuesday 10 November 2026</u>	Online via Teams
<i>*Optional gathering advisory group members' personal stories and case studies for potential publication</i>		
Criteria setting for Community Grants; Messaging and testing	<u>6pm-8.30pm Tuesday 24 November 2026</u>	Online via Teams
Shaping a National Programme of Engagement; Messaging and testing	December 2026	To be determined by the group



AMR Strategy and Developing Recommendations	January 2027	To be determined by group
AMR Strategy and Developing Recommendations	February 2027	To be determined by group
Recap and final recommendations and programme	March 2027	To be determined by group

Facilitated meetings

The meetings will be hosted by the ALLIANCE through a trained neutral facilitator to gather ideas and build consensus amongst the group. Each meeting will build on the last and inform and be informed by the latest Scottish Government action plans on antimicrobial resistance and infection prevention control.

Gift of thanks

To say thank you for giving up your free time, providing your valuable insights and reduce any barriers to participation we will be offering our advisory group members **£40 gift of thanks voucher per session they attend.**

Register your interest

The ALLIANCE will collect equality monitoring information on group members when they register their interest. This is to ensure that our group is representative of a range of experiences.

[Antimicrobial Resistance Advisory Group Interest Form – Fill in form](#)

You can expect to hear from us by **Friday 30 October** if you have been invited to take part or with other ways to engage in the programme.



What is Antimicrobial Resistance or AMR?

Antimicrobial resistance is when the medicine used to treat infections does not work or is resistant.

Antimicrobials are types of medicines used to treat infections in humans, animals. These include:

- medicines that kill bacteria (antibiotics),
- medicines that kill viruses (antivirals),
- medicines that kill yeasts and fungi (antifungals),
- medicines that kill protozoa (antiprotozoals).

There are several commonly used terms associated with AMR, including:

- Resistance of microbes to medicines used to treat infectious diseases, including antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals, and antiparasitic medicines. This broad umbrella term covers resistance in bacteria, viruses, fungi (including yeasts), and protozoa - **antimicrobial resistance**
- Resistance that occurs specifically in bacteria, making antibiotics less effective or ineffective. It is one of the most common and well-recognised forms of antimicrobial resistance, and some organisations prefer using this term in public communication as it is easier to understand - **antibiotic resistance**.
- Bacteria that are resistant to multiple antibiotics and are therefore harder to treat. This is a popular, non-scientific term often used in the media and public health campaigns, but it is now generally avoided in public messaging as it can be misleading and cause confusion, including unintended positive connotations – **superbugs**
- Reduced effectiveness of medicines such as antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals due to bacteria, viruses and fungi no longer responding to antimicrobial medicines. This term is often used interchangeably with antimicrobial resistance - **drug resistance**.

[Antimicrobial Resistance \(AMR\) is invisible, I am not: Videos by WHO's Task Force of AMR survivors](#)



Other opportunities to engage

We recognise that not everyone who completes the form will be able to take part and/or be available to commit to the Advisory Group monthly meetings. As part of this programme there will be other ways to engage such as joining a workshop, completing a survey, participating in a more personal case study story or even hosting your own community event and discussion about the topic.

About the ALLIANCE

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) is the national third sector membership organisation for the health and social care sector. We bring together over 3,500 people and organisations dedicated to achieving our vision of a Scotland where everyone has a strong voice and enjoys the right to live well, with dignity and respect. Our members are essential in creating a society in which we all can thrive, and we believe that by working together, our voice is stronger.

We work to improve the wellbeing of people and communities across Scotland by supporting change in health, social care and other public services so they better meet the needs of everyone in Scotland. We do this by bringing together the expertise of people with lived experience, the third sector, and organisations across health and social care to shape better services and support positive change.

The ALLIANCE has three core aims.

We seek to:

- **Empower people with lived experience:** we ensure disabled people, people with long term conditions, and unpaid carers are



heard and that their needs remain at the heart of the services and communities.

- **Support positive change:** we work within communities to promote co-production, self management, human rights, and independent living.
- **Champion the third sector:** we work with, support and encourage co-operation between the third sector and health and social care organisations.

The ALLIANCE is committed to upholding human rights. We embed lived experience in our work and aim to ensure people are meaningfully involved at every level of decision-making.

Working together creates positive, long-lasting impact. We work in partnership with the Scottish Government, NHS Boards, universities, and other key organisations within health, social care, housing, and digital technology to manage funding and develop successful projects. Together, our voice is stronger, and we can create meaningful change.

Data Collection and Privacy

The ALLIANCE has a Data Protection policy in place and has conducted a data protection impact assessment. Please refer to the privacy statement and consent form for more information.

Contact

Annie Cook, Community Voice and Engagement Coordinator

E: annie.cook@alliance-scotland.org.uk

T: 0141 404 0231

W: <http://www.alliance-scotland.org.uk/>

