

ISSUE 14 | SUMMER 2026

# lifewayslinks

## The Lifeways newsletter for Scotland

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Welcome to  
the Summer  
edition of  
Lifeways Links!

Interactive PDF



## Hello, I'm Janine Forshaw and I'm your local Lifeways Business Development and Relationship Manager for **Scotland**.



I'm currently working with developers and housing associations around new opportunities in the region. If you would like to discuss current gaps in provision and how Lifeways can help you meet these needs, then please contact me on [janine.forshaw@lifeways.co.uk](mailto:janine.forshaw@lifeways.co.uk).

I hope you enjoy this latest issue of LifewaysLinks where we take the opportunity to look at some of the exciting developments taking place across Lifeways and celebrate some of the great achievements of the people we support in your region.

## How we can support

Lifeways supports adults living with learning disabilities, autism, physical disabilities, acquired brain injuries or mental health needs to lead more fulfilling and independent lives in their local communities.

Our experienced assessment team are always available to work together with you, from arranging introductions, assessments and visits, all the way through to the move being complete and the kettle going on.



**Craig Chalmers**  
Senior Assessment  
Manager

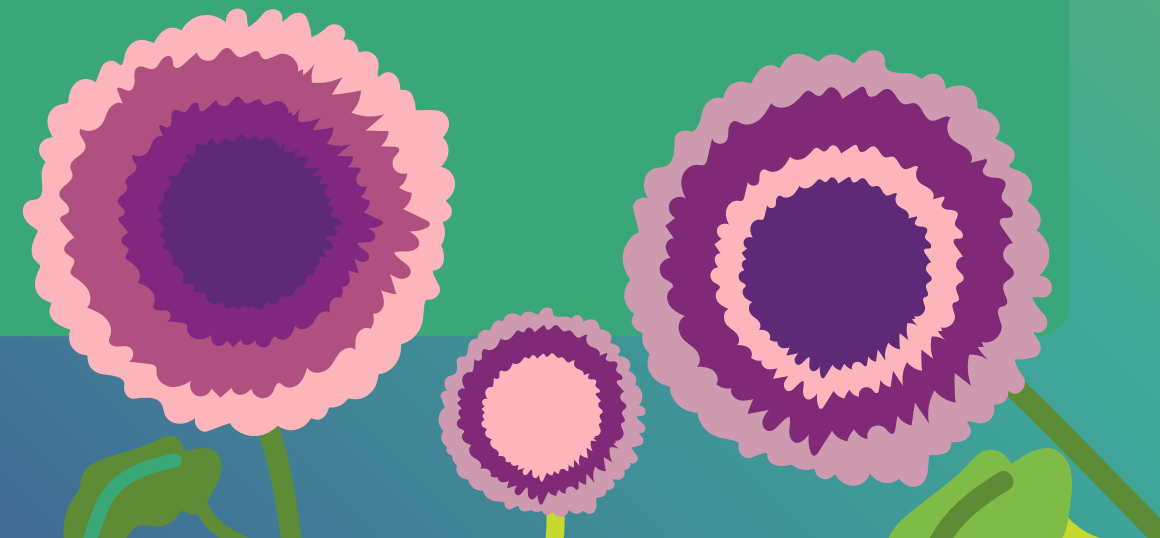
## Get in touch today

If you'd like to make a referral, you can do so by clicking on any of the services in this newsletter, or call us on:

**0333 321 4881**

Email us at:

[referrals@lifeways.co.uk](mailto:referrals@lifeways.co.uk)





## Celebrating Lifeways' Achievements and Ambitions for 2026

by Andrea Kinkade, Chief Executive Officer

**Welcome to our Summer issue of Lifeways Links. I'm delighted to share that our Annual Review for 2025/26 has been published, our yearly look back at the achievements of our brilliant team and, most importantly of all, the amazing people we support.**

This is the third Annual Review in my time here as Chief Executive and I am so proud to share the remarkable progress Lifeways has made in that time; continuing our mission to support people with mental ill-health, learning disabilities, autism and complex needs to their very best lives.

I never tire of telling our story as it unfolds. I called 2023/24 our year of transformation, investing time and resources in future proofing our organisation, and I recall describing 2024/25 as a year of reward for all the hard work we have invested. Well, 2025/26 has unquestionably been a year of celebration as we have taken time to reflect not only upon our journey but also thirty years of Lifeways support – a brilliant milestone. In my experience, the very best organisations make time to celebrate success. It recognises

and re-energises hard-working team members, reminding them that the inspirational work they do – that they sometimes cease to recognise – has real, lasting impact.

One of the reasons that I am passionate about celebration is that, as anyone who has a relationship with our sector knows, the challenges are significant and enduring. I will say to anyone that will listen that our principal challenge is that need is increasing, funding is not keeping pace, and that great people are hard to attract, train and retain. But, at Lifeways, whilst we can – and do - campaign for positive change in adult social care, we can only control the work that we do and the way that we do it.

So, our approach is to relentlessly demonstrate how things can be when people with the right values, backed up by the right organisation, give their love, energy and expertise to delivering the very best support. It is this positive outlook and can-do approach, underpinned by our continued investment, that will make us the provider and employer of choice in our sector.

This is a key driver behind our You're Not Just Anyone campaign that you will see more about in the coming year. Our message is clear: if you come to work at Lifeways, you are not just anyone – you are someone with the values and desire to support people to thrive. And, if you are supported by Lifeways, you are not just anyone to us – you are an individual person that we understand, someone we will involve in co-producing your support, designing your own aspirations and outcomes, living your best life.

Some of my favourite stories within the Annual Review feature people with really complex support needs; people for whom institutionalised living has been their past (usually in placements that have failed ) and would be their future were it not for the work that our teams do to support them to live with increasing independence in their community. Our aim to get everyone out of institutions and into their own home continues.

The Annual Review features our team members talking about great lives being led, improving quality, systems that work,



greater efficiency, better homes and increased colleague engagement that have led to our commissioners entrusting new support to us. You will also read about Lifeways as a listening and learning organisation: positive risk-taking, trying new things, pushing boundaries to improve lives. Lives worth celebrating!

*So, as always, I finish this introduction where I started: celebration. Let us celebrate our teams, the people we support, their passionate families and, of course, hard work, investment, creativity and resilience. Thank you to everyone who has helped make our year of celebration so rewarding.*



**You can read the full Annual Review on the Lifeways website, where you can explore more stories, insights and achievements from across the year.**



# *You're not just anyone* – Lifeways launches a brand-new recruitment campaign

**James Westwood-Beere, Chief People Officer at Lifeways, shares why the new *You're Not Just Anyone* campaign is encouraging more people to consider a career in care.**

Every day at Lifeways, our teams support more than 4,000 people across the UK to live independent and fulfilling lives. The compassion, patience and dedication shown by our team members make a real difference to the people we support and their families.



That's why we've recently launched a new recruitment campaign called *You're Not Just Anyone*, encouraging people with empathy, compassion and a genuine desire to support others to consider a career in social care.

*Supporting people to live the life they choose*

The campaign shines a light on the incredible work of Lifeways' frontline teams and the positive impact they have every single day.

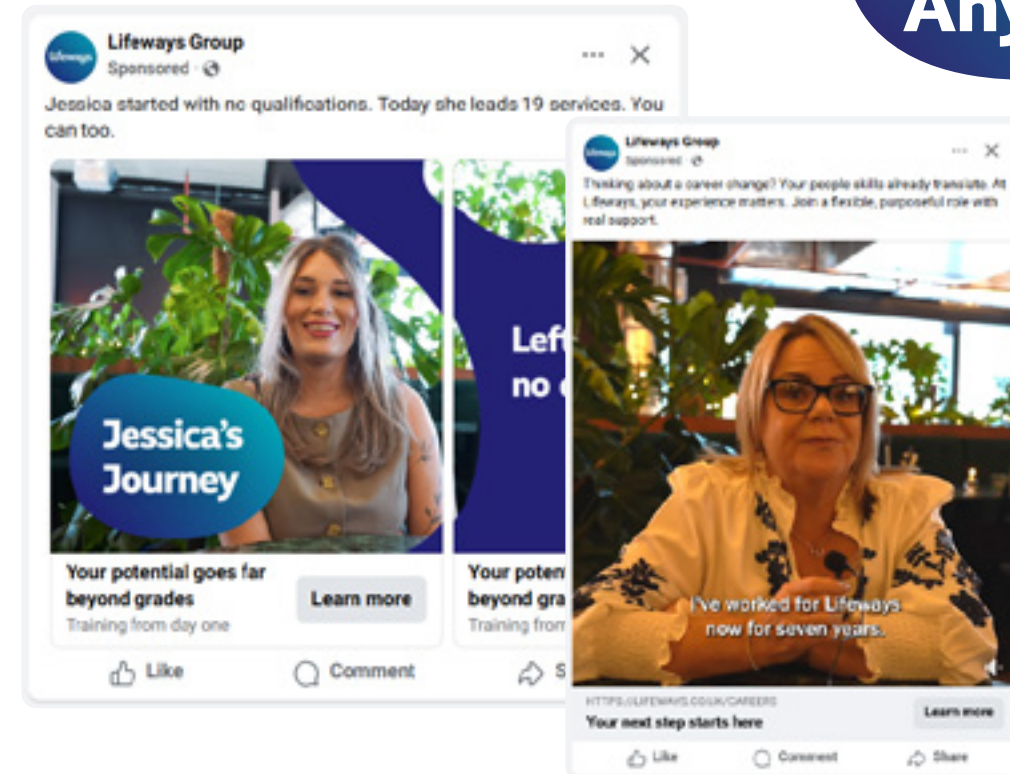
At the heart of the campaign is a powerful short film that captures the real impact of this support. The film features Jessie and Caroline, two brilliant people supported by Lifeways, and celebrates the compassion and empathy that help people live the lives they choose.

*Inspiring people from all walks of life*

*You're Not Just Anyone* is designed to inspire people from all walks of life to consider a career in care, even if they've never thought about it before.

We hope the campaign will encourage people looking for a career change, those returning to work, military veterans, retirees seeking a new purpose, young people starting their careers, and people from other sectors such as hospitality.

**You're  
Not Just  
Anyone**



*'It takes people with care at their core'*

Not just anyone can do this job. It takes people with care at their core. I'm proud to see the difference those people make every day for the individuals and families we support.



You can watch the short film featuring Jessie and Caroline, and learn more about the campaign, on the Lifeways website at [www.lifeways.co.uk/careers](https://www.lifeways.co.uk/careers).

# National Women in Tech Award for Lifeways leader!

by Kieron Steele, Chief Financial Officer

**I'm absolutely delighted to share the fantastic news that Amanda Brooke, our Chief Transformation Officer, has won the Women in Tech Award at the 2025 Women Achieving Greatness in Social Care Awards – better known as the WAGS.**

The WAGS celebrate the extraordinary women leading, innovating and elevating social care, so this is a tremendous achievement. Amanda's win is also a powerful endorsement of the way Lifeways is using technology and innovation to drive improvements in the way we deliver support every day.

Amanda shared how much the recognition means to her: "I feel truly honoured by this recognition. It's a fantastic acknowledgment of Lifeways and the transformation journey we've been on and continue to drive forward.

"I'm deeply grateful to my team and everyone who has contributed to and supported the projects that made this possible. This award isn't just an individual achievement; it



reflects the collective effort of everyone who helped turn these changes into a success."

I couldn't agree more. This award speaks of her dedication, expertise and the real, measurable impact she and her team have made, not only within Lifeways, but across the wider sector. Amanda is a true leader and it's wonderful to see her recognised on the national stage.

*What makes this even more special is the calibre of this year's awards. They received an unprecedented number of high-quality nominations, showcasing the passion and talent of women driving progress in social care across the UK. To be recognised in that context is a remarkable achievement.*

**I'm also thrilled that three more incredible team members were shortlisted:**

- *Karen Roberts, our Head of Health & Clinical Governance, for the Lifetime Achievement Award*
- *Amber Kingsnorth and Caroline Lynch, shortlisted in the Social Care Superwoman category for their outstanding work supporting people with complex needs*



The winners were selected by an independent judging panel led by awards Patron and former Royal College of Nursing president, Dr Cecilia Anim, which underlines the rigour and credibility behind these accolades.

For me, this recognition is about more than a trophy. It reflects the strong leadership, innovation and clinical excellence we're building across Lifeways, shaping the way we deliver support across the organisation.

Huge congratulations again to Amanda and to all our shortlisted team members. Achievements like this show what's possible when talented, values-driven people come together with a shared purpose.



# Our 30 wishes journey continues!

by Gareth Roberts, Quality Director

**As part of our 30th anniversary celebrations last year, we introduced our 30 Wishes initiative, creating special, meaningful experiences for the people we support. Following its success, I'm delighted that we're continuing this into 2026.**

Our teams nominate people they support for a once-in-a-lifetime treat that could be something fun, memorable or truly personal. We've loved seeing the joy these wishes bring and below are some of the latest examples.

## Addison builds confidence with a trip to London

Addison, who we support in Warwickshire, was nominated for a 30 Wishes award to visit London Zoo and enjoy an overnight stay in the city.



A passionate volunteer and active member of the Mental Health LEAP Council, Addison has grown in confidence over time and is now travelling more independently and connecting with others in ways that once felt out of reach.

On hearing about the award, Addison shared:

*I'm overwhelmed but feel very pleased. I have always wanted to go to London, and visiting London Zoo will be a lovely experience for me.*

For Addison, this wish is a chance to recognise and celebrate how far she's come and supports her to keep building confidence for the future.

## Ugne's dream trip to St James' Park

Ugne, who lives at a supported living service in Berwick-upon-Tweed, is set to enjoy an autism-friendly tour of her favourite football team Newcastle United's home ground, St James' Park.

When Ugne heard the news, she was over the moon. The visit is expected to be a truly special experience, giving her the chance to explore a place she loves in a way that feels comfortable and accessible for her.

Her Service Manager, Lorraine Noble, who nominated her for the initiative, shared just how much the trip will mean: "We can't begin to tell you how much this means for Ugne. This one trip has possibly made her year and we all know she's going to come back with a new Newcastle FC shirt."

For Ugne, this wish is about more than football – it's about confidence, excitement and creating a memory she'll treasure.



## Alastair reconnects with a friend in Edinburgh

Alastair, who lives in a supported living service in Northumberland, will soon travel to Edinburgh to spend quality time with a close friend and enjoy a meal together.

He summed it up simply: "I'm so pleased. I will get to see my friend and get to go out and have food."

Reconnection and relationships are such an important part of wellbeing. For Alastair, this trip is all about friendship and having something special to look forward to.

## Julie enjoys a well-deserved spa day

Julie, who has made incredible progress in her mental health recovery at our service in Preston, will soon enjoy a relaxing spa day at Ribby Hall.

She has worked incredibly hard on her recovery, and this experience is a wonderful way to celebrate her achievements and enjoy something just for herself.

*“There are plenty more wishes still to come, and I'm excited to see what 2026 has in store. It's been brilliant to see the smiles and confidence these moments bring.”*

# Scott makes a successful move into Provost Mitchell Circle

by Craig Chalmers, Referral Assessment Practitioner

**In the year before moving into his new home, Scott went through a period of change that brought a fair amount of uncertainty. It was clear that this made it harder for him to settle and feel secure. What he needed most was a place he could truly call his own, somewhere familiar, welcoming and reflective of who he is.**

When Scott moved to Provost Mitchell Circle, our focus from day one was helping him feel at home. I spent time getting to know what mattered most to him, his interests and the things that would help him feel comfortable in his new environment. One of the most meaningful touches was creating a personalised mural for his room. Designed around his personality and interests, it transformed the space into something that felt truly his.



It became more than decoration, it was a clear sign that Scott is valued and that this is his home.

Over the following weeks, I saw Scott begin to settle more and more. Having the stability of one place, alongside consistent and supportive team members, made a real difference. His confidence grew, he felt safer, and he started to engage more with his surroundings and enjoy his daily routines.

*A particularly positive part of Scott's journey has been the relationship he has built with his housemate. Over time, they developed a strong and respectful bond, sharing their space comfortably and getting along extremely well. That connection has played an important role in helping Scott feel that sense of belonging, turning the house into a real home.*

Today, Scott is settled, content and thriving. After such a long period of transition, he now has the stability he was looking for, surrounded by people who understand him and in a home that reflects who he is. From my perspective, it's a great example of how patience, creativity and truly person-centred support can lead to lasting, positive change.





# Phillipa settles into life at Castle Street

by Alexis Mair, Service Manager, Castle Street

**Since Phillipa moved into Castle Street just before Christmas 2025, I've had the pleasure of watching her make a really positive start in her new home. Before joining us, Phillipa, who has autism, was living at home with her mum Karen and her brother Leo. She was ready to take the next step towards independence, but living alone was not the right fit for her needs. Together, we agreed that the model of care at Castle Street would offer the right balance of independence and support.**

From the outset, Phillipa has settled in very well. She has built strong friendships with others in the service and brings great energy, along with plenty of ideas for new activities. It's been encouraging to see her confidence grow as she develops her independent living skills. She's been getting involved in cooking,

taking responsibility for her own washing, and embracing her day-to-day routines.

Phillipa has also enjoyed being part of the local community. She loves trips to the salon, where she treats herself to facials and having her nails done, and she regularly takes part in activities both in and outside the home.

Back at Castle Street, she especially enjoys in-house activities, with pool being a firm favourite. We've recently introduced new games and equipment for the garden, and Phillipa and her friends have even started growing their own vegetables and herbs, which they're now using when cooking meals together.

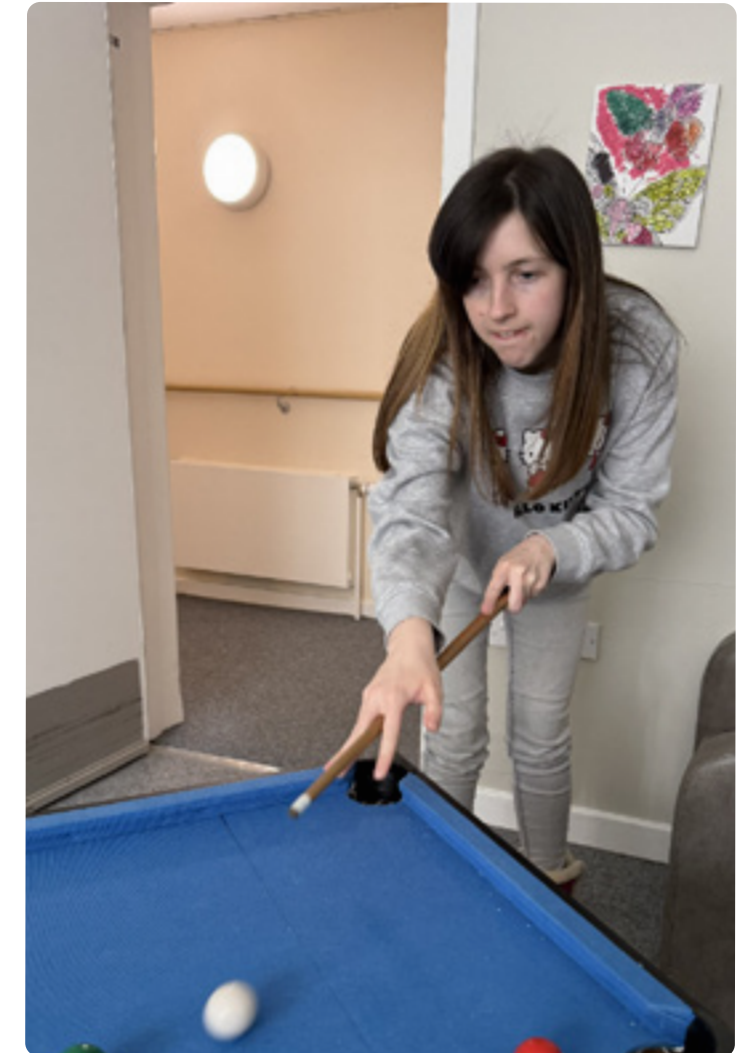
Hearing Phillipa talk about her experience really brings her journey to life. She recently shared with me:

*I have settled in really well at Castle Street and I call it my home. I was really nervous, but I am very settled and have met new friends and I feel safe. I also feel more independent than I did when I lived at home with my mum and brother."*

She's also enjoying being involved in planning activities, adding:

*I like being involved in activities and I particularly enjoy board games. Monopoly and Cluedo are my favourite. My favourite activity of all is pool. I have been organising a pool tournament that I can take part in with my friends. We are going to compete against the staff. I am looking forward to this.*

Overall, Phillipa is very happy at Castle Street and truly sees it as her home. It's been a real pleasure watching her grow in confidence, build friendships and embrace her independence in a way that's right for her.





# A year of change and success at Kelvin Services

by Sanchia Daly, Registered Manager

**Maintaining grades of 5 at our recent Care Inspectorate inspection felt like a real achievement, especially when I think about how much change we've managed over the past year!**

A lot of our work has moved over to digital systems, including care planning and rotas, which was a big change, and it's been a really positive step forward that the team has adapted to very well. Most importantly, we never lost sight of what matters - making sure the people we support are working towards their own goals and living the lives they choose.

Independence continues to be a key focus for many of the people we support, and we always look for opportunities for people to learn new skills in ways that feel meaningful to them. I've seen some brilliant examples of this recently. One person we support has been learning about health and safety checks in his own home and, with a bit of encouragement, agreed to visit other services to carry these out.

It went really well. He genuinely enjoyed it, and the people he visited enjoyed having him too. It gave his confidence a real boost and was a great example of people supporting each other.

*We're lucky to have a team who genuinely care, and that shone through in the Care Inspectorate feedback. Their kindness, knowledge and commitment do not go unnoticed, and it makes a real difference to the people we support every day.*

We've also had some lovely moments of co-production recently. Our Easter activity gave us the chance to come together as a team and celebrate our inspection result, which made it even more special. Everyone got involved in their own way. It was simple, but it brought people together and was enjoyed by all.



## Current vacancies in Scotland



Supported Living for 9 people

### Hunthill Road

Huntill, Glasgow

#### Purpose-built apartments

- ✓ Learning disabilities
- ✓ Autism
- ✓ Open plan kitchen and living rooms

Hunthill Road offers eight one and two-bedroom purpose-built apartments, with generous communal areas. Each apartment has a hallway, kitchen-diner and bathroom. Shared spaces include a large laundry room and a spacious communal lounge that is used for special occasions and parties. Outside, the communal garden to the rear has planting beds and a range of seating and patio areas.

Hunthill Road is suitable for people with learning disabilities and autism and some apartments are designed to support people with physical disabilities. We welcome people of all ages, ability or gender. Residents have a wide range of interests and hobbies, and while everyone enjoys their own space, there is also a strong sense of community with regular get-togethers in the lounge for celebrations and social activities.

Located in Blantyre, a small town on the River Clyde to the south of Glasgow, there are plenty of local amenities including shops, takeaways, pubs, a post office, library and leisure centre. Regular buses go to Glasgow and Motherwell. Strathclyde Country Park is a short drive away and offers water sports on the loch and scenic walks. Calderglen Country Park and Zoo is ten minutes away and is perfect for a day trip.



Supported Living for 2 people

### Montgomery Place

Buchlyvie, Stirling

#### Shared Home

- ✓ Learning disabilities
- ✓ Autism

Montgomery Place is a shared semi-detached house in Buchlyvie, just outside Stirling. It has three-bedrooms, a lounge, kitchen with dining room and an upstairs toilet. One of the bedrooms is a staff sleep-in room for overnight support. There is a large lawned garden with beautiful views.

Montgomery Place is suitable for people with learning disabilities and autism. The current resident is in his mid-30s and lives with autism and epilepsy. He enjoys a routine and can be very vocal at times. He enjoys a range of activities including going to the cinema, cooking, walking, bowling and crafts and is out and about most days.

The available room would suit a male of a similar age who is comfortable living in a home where there can be noise at times. It would be beneficial if they have access to their own vehicle. Ideally they would also enjoy some socialising and taking part in creative activities.

The property is well located for local amenities including shops, a post office, a garden centre and a supermarket. We are a short drive from Stirling centre, which offers a wide range of shops, cafes, a cinema, and a bowling alley. Excellent transport links are available with regular bus and train services to Stirling and Glasgow as well as connections to local areas and further afield, such as Edinburgh.



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