

2018 Conference Report

'Making Better Connections' was the theme of the 2018 HSCN conference and from the delegates' evaluations of the day this was achieved on a number of levels. 83 people attended the conference with 7 apologies and 9 non-shows – 54 evaluations completed giving a 65% return

Our keynote speaker Dr Donald Macaskill, Chief Executive Scottish Care, spoke on 'Human Rights and Older People's Lives', closely followed by Maureen Wilson, National Coordinator from Listen Well who asked the question 'Can you just listen?'. Dr Hugo Van Woerden (Director of Public Health, NHS Highland) addressed the challenge of loneliness which provided interesting statistics prior to Cathy Steer, Head of Health Improvement, NHS Highland looking at ways to reduce older people's feeling of isolation. A brief film 'Norma's guide to SDS Option 2' was given an early public airing showing how Self Directed Support could be successfully implemented to meet the service user's needs to improve their quality of life.

Black Isle Cares wound up the day by demonstrating how they were making local connections work. Overall the day was very well received with many positive comments made on the organisation, interesting and informative content, liveliness of round table discussions, good networking, the inspirational work of Black Isle Cares and the hotel facilities. There remain some negative statements re-acoustics at this year's Conference though generally things are improving.

The full collation of 2018 Conference evaluation will be available to delegates and speakers online from mid-June. As always HSCN would like to take this opportunity to thank all delegates for their involvement and feedback.