

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Co-chomhairle Phoblach:</b> <b>Cùram-slàinte ann an Sgìrean Iomallach is Dùthchail</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="https://yourviews.parliament.scot/health/healthcare-in-rural-areas/">https://yourviews.parliament.scot/health/healthcare-in-rural-areas/</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Freagairt bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>10 Dàmhair 2023</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Public Consultation:</b> <b>Healthcare in Remote and Rural Areas</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="https://yourviews.parliament.scot/health/healthcare-in-rural-areas/">https://yourviews.parliament.scot/health/healthcare-in-rural-areas/</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bòrd na Gàidhlig Response</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>10 October 2023</b></p>
<p><b>Ro-ràdh</b></p> <p>Stèidhichte fo Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005, 's e buidheann poblach neo-roinneil de Riaghaltas na h-Alba a th' ann am Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Is e a' phrìomh bhuidheann ann an Alba air a bheil dleastanas gus leasachadh Gàidhlig a chur air adhart agus gus comhairle a thoirt do Mhinistearan na h-Alba mu chùisean Gàidhlig.</p> <p>'S e amas a' Phlana Cànanain Nàiseanta Ghàidhlig 2018-23<sup>1</sup> gun tèid "a' Ghàidhlig a chleachdadh nas trice, le barrachd dhaoine agus ann an raon nas fharsaing de shuidheachaidhean". Bheirear seo gu buil le bhith a' cuimseachadh air:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cur am meud cleachdadh na Gàidhlig.</li> <li>• Cur am meud ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig.</li> <li>• Cur air adhart deagh ìomhaigh den Ghàidhlig.</li> </ul> <p>Bheirear an cleachdadh a bharrachd seo den chànan gu bhith, gu ìre, le bhith a' toirt am buil nam buannachdan eacanomaigeach a bhios a' Ghàidhlig a' toirt do dh'Alba. Tachraidh sin tro bhith a' cleachdadh na Gàidhlig barrachd mar sho-mhaoin eaconamach. 'S e ar n-amas gum faicear is gun cluinnear a' Ghàidhlig gu làitheil air feadh na h-Alba, air dhòigh 's gun tèid aithneachadh gu farsaing gu bheil i aig cridhe beatha na h-Alba agus na stòras nàiseanta.</p> <p>Thathar a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig air feadh na h-Alba. Tha mu 50% de luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig a' fuireach sa</p>	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>Established under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, Bòrd na Gàidhlig is an executive non-departmental public body of the Scottish Government. It is the principal public body in Scotland responsible for promoting Gaelic development and providing advice to the Scottish Ministers on Gaelic issues.</p> <p>The aim of the National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23<sup>7</sup> is "that Gaelic is used more often, by more people and in a wider range of situations". This will be achieved by focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing the use of Gaelic.</li> <li>• Increasing the learning of Gaelic.</li> <li>• Promoting a positive image of Gaelic.</li> </ul> <p>This greater use of the language will, in part, be achieved through fully realising the social and economic benefits that Gaelic brings to Scotland. Our aim is that Gaelic is seen and heard on a daily basis across Scotland, such that it is widely recognised as an integral part of Scottish life and a national asset.</p> <p>Gaelic is spoken across Scotland. Around 50% of Gaelic speakers live in the Highlands and Islands with the</p>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/BnG-NGLP-18-23.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/BnG-NGLP-18-23.pdf>

<p>Ghàidhealtachd agus sna h-Eileanan, agus càch air feadh na dùthcha. A rèir Cunntas-sluaigh 2011, bha sgilean Gàidhlig aig 87,100 daoine (mu 1.7% den àireamh-shluaigh), agus 57,600 dhiubh a b' urrainn Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn. Tha iarrtas a' sìor fhàs airson cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig le buannachdan foghlaim, eaconamach is sòisealta co-cheangailte riutha.</p> <p>Tha Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig (FtMG) a' leudachadh air feadh na h-Alba. Tha e a-nis ri fhaighinn ann an còrr is dàrna leth nan 32 ùghdarrasan ionadail ann an Alba. Thòisich Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann an 1985 le 14 sgoilearan sa bhun-sgoil. A-nis tha còrr is 5,600 sgoilear san roinn thar foghlaim Thràth-bhliadhnaichean, Bun-sgoile is Àrd-sgoile. Gus coinneachadh ri fàs leantainneach san iarrtas bidh feum air tasgadh ann an sgoiltean agus tidsearan.</p> <p>Tha an t-iarrtas airson Gàidhlig ionnsachadh follaiseach san àrdachadh mhòr de dhaoine a tha a' gabhail ris an app/làrach-lìn ionnsachadh cànan Duolingo. Tha mu 1.5 millean neach air tòiseachadh air Gàidhlig na h-Alba ionnsachadh air an app bho thòisich an cùrsa o chionn trì bliadhna. Tha a' mhòr-chuid (71%) bho thaobh a-muigh na RA, le 36% anns na Stàitean Aonaichte a-mhàin.</p> <p>Tha cur air bhog goireas craolaidh agus teagaisg air-loidhne SpeakGaelic san t-Sultain 2021 cuideachd air cur gu mòr ri goireasan do dh'inbheach a tha airson a dhol an sàs sa Ghàidhlig agus an cànan ionnsachadh.</p> <p>Fhuair “Suirbhidh Beachdan Sòisealta na h-Alba 2021: Beachdan Poball na h-Alba air a' Ghàidhlig”<sup>2</sup>, gu bheil, an coimeas ri 2012:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A' cho-chuid a tha ag ràdh gun urrainn dhaibh co-dhiù corra fhacal Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn air dùblachadh bho 15% gu 30%.</li> <li>• Gu bheil a' cho-chuid a tha ag ràdh gun tuig iad co-dhiù beagan Gàidhlig air a dhol am meud bho 25% gu 41%.</li> </ul> <p>A bharrachd air sin, tha 79% de dhaoine a' smaointinn gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig an dàrna cuid cudromach no glè chudromach do dhualchas cultarach na h-Alba.</p>	<p>remainder in the rest of the country. At the 2011 Census 87,100 people in Scotland had Gaelic skills (around 1.7% of the population), of which 57,600 were Gaelic speakers. There is a growing demand for Gaelic language and culture with related educational, economic and social benefits.</p> <p>Gaelic Medium Education is expanding across Scotland. It is now available in over half of Scotland's 32 local authorities. Gaelic Medium Education began in 1985 with 14 primary pupils. There are now more than 5,600 pupils in the sector across Early Years, Primary and Secondary education. Meeting continuing growth in demand will require investment in schools and teachers.</p> <p>The demand for learning Gaelic is evident in the huge uptake of the Duolingo language learning app/website. Some 1.5 million people have started learning Gaelic on the app since the course launched over three years ago. The majority (71%) are from outside the UK, with 36% in the United States alone.</p> <p>The launch of SpeakGaelic in October 2021 has also greatly contributed to resources for adults who want to engage with and learn the language. It has seen around 400,000 learners since its launch.</p> <p>The “Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2021: Public Attitudes to Gaelic in Scotland”<sup>8</sup> found that since 2012:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proportion who say they can speak at least the odd word of Gaelic has doubled from 15% to 30%.</li> <li>• The proportion who say they can understand at least a little Gaelic has increased from 25% to 41%.</li> </ul> <p>Further, 79% of people think Gaelic is either very or fairly important to Scotland's cultural heritage.</p>
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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/03.SSA-2021-Public-attitudes-to-Gaelic-in-Scotland-Main-report.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/03.SSA-2021-Public-attitudes-to-Gaelic-in-Scotland-Main-report.pdf>



<p>Lorg suirbhidh de dhaoine òga (iadsan eadar 11 agus 26 bliadhna a dh'aois)<sup>3</sup> gun robh trian (33%) den luchd-fhreagairt ag ràdh gu robh iad ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig ann an dòigh air choreigin. Thuirt tuilleadh air leth (59%) den luchd-fhreagairt aig <i>nach robh a'</i> Gàidhlig gun robh ùidh aca ann a bhith ag ionnsachadh a' chànain. Cuideachd, 72% den luchd-fhreagairt gu lèir a' meas cultar is dualchas na Gàidhlig mar rud luachmhor no fìor-luachmhor.</p> <p>Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' cur beachd a-steach dhan cho-chomhairle seo a chionn gu bheil seasmhachd na Gàidhlig an crochadh air seasmhachd nan coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig: gu sònraichte an fheadhainn ann an sgìrean iomallach agus dùthchail air a' Ghàidhealtachd is anns na h-Eileanan.</p> <p>Tha na sgìrean far a bheil Gàidhlig as treasa sa choimhearsnachd gu ìre mhòr ann an sgìrean iomallach air tìr-mòr no eileanan. Gu sònraichte, na h-Eileanan Siar, an t-Eilean Sgitheanach, cuid de sgìrean ann an Loch Aillse, Tìriodh, Ìle, Diùra agus Colbhasa.</p> <p><b>Ro-innleachd Sgioba-obrach Cùram-slàinte ann an Sgìrean Iomallach is Dùthchail</b></p> <p>Tha grunn chùisean sòiseo-eaconamach a' toirt buaidh air seasmhachd choimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig agus mar sin air seasmhachd a' chànain. Tha iad seo a' gabhail a-steach taighheadas, còmh-dhail agus cùram slàinte fhèin.</p> <p>Tha solar slàinte is cùraim na phrìomh phàirt de bhun-structair nan sgìrean iomallach agus dùthchail. Tha Plana Nàiseanta nan Eilean aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba<sup>4</sup> ag ràdh "Tha cothrom air deagh sheirbheisean slàinte agus cùram sòisealta mar bhunait beatha ann an eileanan na h-Alba agus tha e cudromach gus slugh a chumail agus gus luchd-còmhnaidh ùr a thàladh".</p> <p>Bu chòir don Ro-innleachd Sgioba-obrach Iomallach is Dùthchail a bhith a' gabhail a-steach beachdachadh air na dùbhlain ann a bhith lìbhrigeadh cùram slàinte ann an sgìrean iomallach agus dùthchail. Nam measg tha:</p>	<p>A survey of young people (those aged between 11 and 26 years)<sup>9</sup> found that one third (33%) of respondents stated that were learning Gaelic in some form. More than half (59%) of the respondents who could <i>not</i> speak Gaelic stated that they were interested in learning the language. Also, 72% of all respondents rated Gaelic culture and heritage as quite or very valuable.</p> <p>Bòrd na Gàidhlig are responding to this consultation because the viability of the Gaelic language rests on viable Gaelic-speaking communities: particularly those in the remote and rural areas of the Highlands and Islands.</p> <p>The heartlands of the Gaelic language - i.e., where the language remains relatively strong - are very largely in remote mainland areas or islands. Notably, the Outer Hebrides, Skye, some districts of Lochalsh, Tìree, Islay, Jura and Colonsay.</p> <p><b>The Remote and Rural Workforce Strategy</b></p> <p>A number of socio-economic issues affect the viability of Gaelic communities and thus the viability of the language. These include housing, transport, and healthcare itself.</p> <p>Health and care provision is a key part of the infrastructure of remote and rural areas. Scottish Government's National Islands Plan<sup>10</sup> states that "Having access to good quality health and social care services underpins living on Scotland's islands and is important to both maintain population and attract new residents".</p> <p>The Remote and Rural Workforce Strategy should include an exposition of the challenges in delivering healthcare in remote and rural areas. These include:</p>
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<sup>3</sup> <https://youngscot.net/ysobservatory/a-bhith-an-sas-le-ghaidhlig-air-loidhne-engaging-with-gaelic-online>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-plan-scotlands-islands/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://youngscot.net/ysobservatory/a-bhith-an-sas-le-ghaidhlig-air-loidhne-engaging-with-gaelic-online>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-plan-scotlands-islands/>



- Comas proifeiseantaich òga de gach dreuchd a thàladh gu sgìrean iomallach agus dùthchail.
- Tha barrachd ùidh ann an dreuchdan speisealta ach is ann a tha sgìrean dùthchail agus iomallach feumach air luchd-dreuchd coitcheann.

Bhiodh e feumail nam biodh an Ro-innleachd a' toirt a-steach barrachd co-roinn agus leasachaidh air deagh chleachdadh ann a bhith a' tàladh luchd-obrach gu sgìrean dùthchail agus iomallach. Mar eisimpleir, tha iomairt *An Roghainn Cheart* aig NHS nan Eilean Siar a' cur cuideam air na tha tarraingeach mu na h-eileanan mar àite-fuirich. Tha brosnachadh ionmhasail ann cuideachd gus taic a thoirt do dhaoine gluasad a dh'obair san NHS, agus pàigheadh Cuibhreann Eileanan Iomallach bliadhnail. Bu chòir do dheagh chleachdadh cuideachd a bhith a' gabhail a-steach dèiligeadh ri mì-thuigse mu bhith a' fuireach ann an sgìrean dùthchail agus iomallach agus sealltainn na deagh chàileachd beatha a tha ri fhaighinn annta.

Tha e cudromach gum bi an Ro-innleachd ag innse nan dùbhlann sòiseo-eaconamach nas fharsainghe a tha a' toirt buaidh air luchd-obrach agus solar cùram slàinte agus a' sealltainn mar a dhèiligeas poileasaidhean Riaghaltas na h-Alba ris na dùbhlain sin.

Gu sònraichte:

- Glèidheadh dhaoine òga a bhios ag obair san sgioba-obrach cùram slàinte san àm ri teachd, a' cuideachadh le dèiligeadh ri call sluaigh gu sgìrean eile.
- Cosgais àrd bith-beò ann am mòran sgìrean dùthchail agus iomallach a bheir droch bhuaidh air an fheadhainn a tha a' cosnadh fo ìre teachd-a-steach shònraichte.
- Taigheadas ri fhaighinn agus aig prìs reusanta gus luchd-obrach a thàladh/a chumail.
- Còmhdhail ionadail agus chòmhdhail gu àiteachan eile – a' gabhail a-steach cosgaisean faraidhean còmhdhail phoblaich cho math ri dè cho tric is earbsach 's a tha seirbheisean – siubhal aiseig agus adhair nam measg. Bheir deagh sheirbheisean còmhdhail taic do thàladh agus cumail luchd-obrach cùram slàinte agus an teaghlaichean.

Tha sinn a' cur fàilte air cruthachadh an Ionaid Nàiseanta airson Slàinte is Cùram Sòisealta Iomallach is Dùthchail. Ach, feumaidh tasgadh Riaghaltas na h-Alba a bhith na chois a bhrosnaicheas agus a chumas suas in-imrich agus gleidheadh sluaigh ann an sgìrean dùthchail agus iomallach.

- The ability to attract young professionals of all disciplines to remote and rural areas.
- Increasing interest in specialist roles whereas rural and remote areas need generalists.

The Strategy could usefully include greater sharing and development of good practice in attracting staff to rural and remote areas. For example, NHS Western Isles' *The Right Choice* initiative highlights the islands' attractions as a place to live. It also includes a financial incentive to support individuals to relocate to work in the NHS, and the availability of an annual Distant Islands Allowance payment. Good practice should also include addressing misconceptions about living in rural and remote areas and positively demonstrating the quality of life that is available.

Importantly, the Strategy should highlight the wider socio-economic challenges that affect healthcare staffing and provision and demonstrate how Scottish Government policies will address these challenges.

In particular:

- Retention of young people to form part of the future healthcare workforce, helping to address net outmigration to other areas.
- The high cost of living in many rural and remote areas which adversely affects those earning below a certain income level.
- Available and affordable housing to attract/retain staff.
- Local and external transport - including public transport fare costs as well as frequency and reliability of services including ferry and air. Good transport services will support the attraction and retention of healthcare staff and their household members.

We welcome the creation of the National Centre for Remote and Rural Health and Social Care. However, it needs to be accompanied by Scottish Government investment that will encourage and sustain inward



Bu chòir don Ro-innleachd cuideachd mìneachadh mar a chuireas na gnìomhan aice ri cumail suas agus leasachadh na Gàidhlig. Chan eil an *Ro-innleachd Sgioba-obrach Nàiseanta airson Slàinte is Cùram Sòisealta na h-Alba a'* toirt iomradh sam bith air a' Ghàidhlig. Tha sin a dh'aindeoin gu bheil Planaichean Gàidhlig aig dà Bhòrd Slàinte – NHS nan Eilean Siar agus NHS na Gàidhealtachd.

### **Buaidh Solarachadh Slàinte is Cùram Sòisealta air Seasmhachd Choimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig**

Cuidichidh deagh sholar cùram slàinte ann an sgìrean iomallach agus dùthchail gus luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig a thàladh agus a chumail. Agus cuidichidh sin ri seasmhachd a' chàinain.

Tha seo ann an co-theacs far a bheil àireamhan-sluaigh a' crìonadh mar-thà ann am mòran sgìrean iomallach agus dùthchail. Dh'fhaodadh call sluaigh ann an sgìrean far a bheil àireamhan luchd-cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig àrd droch bhuaidh a thoirt air a' chàinain.

Ma nì luchd-cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig imrich gus obair fhaighinn ann an àiteachan eile, bhiodh dà bhuaidh aig seo. Sa chiad àite, bhiodh lùghdachadh san àireimh de luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig anns an sgìre air a bheil buaidh. San dàrna àite, faodaidh teaghlaichean air a bheil buaidh gluasad gu sgìre far nach eil a' Ghàidhlig air a cleachdadh mòran agus thar ùine, is dòcha nach bi iad a' cleachdadh a' chàinain gu cunbhalach tuilleadh – no dh'fhaodadh iad a call gu tur.

Is e a' bhuil lùghdachadh ann an cleachdadh na Gàidhlig san fharsaingeachd. Bhiodh sin a' dol an aghaidh amas Phlana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig "gun tèid an cànan a chleachdadh nas trice, le barrachd dhaoine".

A bharrachd air sin, tha Plana Nàiseanta nan Eilean ag ràdh "mar thoradh air dìth taic a thaobh cùram dachaigh agus bith-beò le taic no dachaighean-cùraim sna h-eilean, is urrainn seo fàgail gum feum luchd-còmhnaidh nas sine an t-eilean aca fhàgail nan seann aois. Mar thoradh air sin, thathar a' call mòran den dualchas is den chultar a bheir seann daoine dhan choimhearsnachd". Ann an cuid de choimhearsnachdan faodaidh sin a bhith a' ciallachadh call luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig agus an dualchas is cultar.

migration and population retention in rural and remote areas.

The Strategy should also set out how its actions will contribute to sustaining and developing the Gaelic language. The *National Workforce Strategy for Health and Social Care in Scotland* makes no reference to Gaelic. That is despite two Health Boards - NHS Western Isles and NHS Highland - having Gaelic Language Plans.

### **Impact of Health and Social Care Provision on Gaelic Communities' Sustainability**

Good healthcare provision in remote and rural areas will help to attract and retain Gaelic speakers. Thus, it will contribute to the viability of the language.

That is in a context where population levels are already declining in many remote and rural locations. Loss of population in areas with Gaelic speakers due to inadequate healthcare provision could have a significant negative impact on the language.

If Gaelic users move elsewhere this would have two impacts. First, a reduction in the number of Gaelic speakers in the affected area. Second, affected households may move to an area where Gaelic is much less used, and over time, they may no longer regularly use the language - or may lose it altogether.

The result would be a reduction in the use of Gaelic. That would run counter to the National Gaelic Language Plan's aim that the language "is used more often, by more people".

In addition, the National Islands Plan states that "a lack of available on-island support in terms of home care and assisted living or care homes can result in older residents having to leave the island in their later years. Consequently, much of the heritage and culture that the older population bring to the community is being lost". In some communities that can mean the loss of Gaelic speakers and their associated heritage and culture.



<b>Àite na Gàidhlig ann an Solar Slàinte is Cùram Sòisealta</b>	<b>Role of Gaelic in Health and Social Care Provision</b>
<p>Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig ga mheas deatamach gum bi cothrom aig a’ phoball agus euslaintich le Gàidhlig air seirbheisean agus taic slàinte cuirp is inntinn tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig. Tha seo dha-rìribh cudromach san NHS agus dachaighean-cùraim sa Ghàidhealtachd agus na h-Eileanan.</p> <p>Is e fear de dh’amasan ro-innleachdail Plana Nàiseanta nan Eilean a bhith “a’ dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil seirbheisean slàinte, cùram sòisealta agus sunnd rim faighinn tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig gus taic a thoirt do choimhearsnachdan eileanach Gàidhlig”. Tha seo a cheart cho fìor a thaobh coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig air tìr-mòr.</p> <p>Gus seirbheis a sholarachadh do luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig tha feum air luchd-obrach aig a bheil Gàidhlig agus an cànan a dhèanamh follaiseach m.e., tro shoidhnichean dà-chànanach.</p> <p>Tha aithisg na <i>Buidheann-obrach Ùine Ghoirid air Cothroman Eaconamach is Sòisealta don Ghàidhlig</i><sup>5</sup> a’ toirt iomradh air cho cudromach ‘s a tha roinn slàinte is cùram sòisealta ann an coimhearsnachdan le co-roinn àrd de dhaoine le comasan Gàidhlig. Tha e ag ràdh gur e seo coimhearsnachdan “far am bu chòir cùram a bhith ri fhaighinn anns a’ chànan as fheàrr le mòran, agus dreuchdan ‘s am bithear a’ cleachdadh na Gàidhlig”.</p> <p>Tha moladh anns an aithisg gum “Bu chòir cothroman a leasachadh airson trèanadh tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig a sholarachadh agus lìbhrigeadh seirbheis ann an Roinn na Slàinte agus Cùram Sòisealta aig a bheil comas buaidh eaconamach chudromach a lìbhrigeadh a bharrachd air buannachdan cànan is sunnd”.</p> <p>Chan eil teagamh sam bith nach eil cleachdadh na Gàidhlig ann an seirbheisean NHS na bhuanachd a thaobh cùram do dh’euslaintich fa leth. Bu chòir comas sa Ghàidhlig aithneachadh gu cunbhalach mar sgil do luchd-obrach slàinte is cùraim. Tha argamaid ann airson àrdachadh a thoirt air an àireimh dhreuchdan a tha air an comharrachadh mar Ghàidhlig riatanach no mar Ghàidhlig feumail ann an suidheachaidhean slàinte is cùraim - agus gu sònraichte ann</p>	<p>Bòrd na Gàidhlig believe that it is essential that the Gaelic speaking public and patients have access to physical and mental health services and support through the medium of the Gaelic language. This is particularly pertinent in the NHS and care homes in the Highlands and Islands.</p> <p>One of National Islands Plan’s strategic objectives is to “ensure that health, social care and wellbeing services are available through the medium of Gaelic to support Gaelic speaking island communities”. Equally, that would apply to Gaelic speaking mainland communities.</p> <p>Providing a service for Gaelic speakers requires sufficient staff who can speak Gaelic plus making the language visible e.g., through bilingual signage.</p> <p>The <i>Short Life Working Group on Economic and Social Opportunities for Gaelic</i> report<sup>11</sup> refers to the importance of the health and social care sector in communities with a relatively high proportion of people with Gaelic abilities. It states that these are communities “where care should be available in the preferred language of many, while jobs are provided where Gaelic is used”.</p> <p>The report includes a recommendation that “Opportunities should be developed for the provision of Gaelic medium training and service delivery in the Health and Social Care Sector which has the potential for significant economic impact in addition to linguistic and wellbeing benefits”.</p> <p>The use of Gaelic in NHS services is an undoubted asset in terms of individualised patient care. Proficiency in Gaelic should be consistently recognised as a skill for health and care workers. There is a case for further increasing the number of posts that are designated as either Gaelic essential or Gaelic desirable in health and care settings - and particularly so in the Gaelic heartland areas.</p>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/short-life-working-group-economic-social-opportunities-gaelic-report-cabinet-secretary-finance-economy/documents/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/short-life-working-group-economic-social-opportunities-gaelic-report-cabinet-secretary-finance-economy/documents/>



an sgìrean traidiseanta far a bheil Gàidhlig làidir sa choimhearsnachd.

Tha lìbhrigeadh seirbheisean slàinte is cùraim tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig a' cur ri sunnd euslaintich aig a bheil an cànan. Bidh e a' cruthachadh fèin-spèis, a' brosnachadh misneachd, a' toirt fèin-aithne do dhaoine agus a' cur ri càileachd beatha. Tha i a' cur ri, ann an dòigh dheimhinneach, na bhios na daoine seo a' smaointinn agus a' faireachdainn mu dheidhinn am beatha.

Chaidh Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005 aontachadh le Pàrlamaid na h-Alba gus inbhe na Gàidhlig a dhaingneachadh mar chànan oifigeil ann an Alba aig a bheil spèis cho-ionnan ris a' Bheurla. Tha Plana Gàidhlig Riaghaltas na h-Alba<sup>6</sup> ag ràdh gu bheil e “dealasach a thaobh taic don Ghàidhlig agus ag amas air dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil an fheadhainn a tha airson Gàidhlig a chleachdadh nam beatha làitheil a' faighinn cothrom sin a dhèanamh”.

Mar eisimpleir, thathar ag aithneachadh gu bheil cothrom bruidhinn anns a' chànan a thogras daoine (m.e. Gàidhlig) a' cur gu mòr ri sunnd aig amannan tinneis no èiginn, agus a' dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil iad air an làimhseachadh le co-ionannachd. Thathar ag aithneachadh sa chumantas gum faod luchd-labhairt dùthchasach cànan a dhol air ais gu ìre mhòr no uile gu lèir dhan chànan mhàthaireil aca nuair a thig seargadh-inntinn orra an toiseach. Dh'fhaodte gun cleachd iad faclan sa chànan as aithne dhaibh as fheàrr seach sa mhòr-chànan (can Beurla). Ann an cuid de shuidheachaidhean, 's e a' Ghàidhlig a chleachdas iad, agus dh'fhaodte gun toir seo fìor dhroch bhuaidh air daoine an uair sin mura h-eil Gàidhlig ga bruidhinn leis a' mhòr-chuid de dhaoine mun cuairt orra. Dh'fhaodadh seo aonaranachd, troimh-chèile, sàrachadh, no trom-inntinn adhbharachadh.

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig air grunn phròiseactan a mhaoineachadh a tha air a' Ghàidhlig agus ealain na Gàidhlig a chleachdadh gus taic a chumail riuthasan air a bheil seargadh-inntinn/Alzheimer's. Tha Còmhairle na Gàidhlig na phròiseact a tha air a ruith le Alzheimer's Alba. Tha e air taic a chumail ri daoine le seargadh-inntinn san Eilean Sgitheanach le bhith a' ceangal ri sgoil gus seiseanan còmhairle agus òran a ruith, le sgoilearan a' gabhail pàirt anns na seiseanan cuideachd. Tha ceòl agus òrain gan

Providing health and care services through the medium of Gaelic contributes to the wellbeing of patients who use the language. It creates self-esteem, nurtures self-confidence, defines identity and improves quality of life. It contributes positively to what these people think and feel about their lives.

The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 was passed by the Scottish Parliament with a view to securing the status of the Gaelic language as an official language of Scotland commanding equal respect with the English language. Scottish Government's Gaelic Language Plan<sup>12</sup> states that it “remains committed to supporting the Gaelic language and aims to ensure that the those who wish to live their lives through the language are afforded the opportunities to do so”.

As an example, it is generally recognised that being able to converse in one's chosen language (e.g., Gaelic) can be a great contributor to wellbeing at times of illness or distress and ensuring equality of treatment. It is generally recognised that native language speakers can revert largely or wholly to their mother tongue upon the onset of dementia. They may replace words (say, in English) with the equivalent in a language more familiar to them. In some cases, this will be Gaelic, and people can then face severe negative impacts if Gaelic is not spoken by most people around them. This can lead to isolation, loneliness, confusion, frustration, or depression.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig have funded a number of projects that have used the Gaelic language and arts to support those with dementia/Alzheimer's. Gaelic Conversations is a project is run by Alzheimer's Scotland. It has supported people in Skye with dementia by linking up with a school to run conversation and song sessions, with school pupils also participating in these sessions. Music and song are used to prompt reminiscences and keep the attendees talking. Gaelic speakers have also joined in

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-governments-gaelic-language-plan-2022-2027/documents/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-governments-gaelic-language-plan-2022-2027/documents/>



cleachdadh gus cuimhneachain agus còmhradhean a bhrosnachadh eadar an luchd-èisteachd. Tha luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig air tighinn ann gu bhiorraileach bho dhachaighean-cùraim agus ionadan-latha anns an Eilean Sgitheanach agus Loch Aillse, Loch Abar agus sna h-Eileanan Siar.

virtually from care homes and day care centres in Skye and Lochalsh, Lochaber and the Outer Hebrides.



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