

## SERVICE UPDATE

<b><u>Name of Function:</u></b>	Children's Social Work and Family Support
<b><u>Date:</u></b>	24 September 2025
<b><u>Title of Update:</u></b>	Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence (LDAN) Bill
<b><u>Report Author:</u></b>	Graeme Simpson
<b><u>Chief Officer:</u></b>	Graeme Simpson
<b><u>Contact Details:</u></b>	gsimpson@aberdeencity.gov.uk

### 1. Purpose of Service Update

- 1.1 A request was made at the Education & Children's Services Committee in September 2025 to provide Committee members with an update on the Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence (LDAN) Bill.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 A report on the intentions of the Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence (LDAN) Bill was presented to Committee on 2 July 2024 - [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Education and Children's Services Committee, 02/07/2024 10:00.](#)
- 2.2 Committee members be kept updated as the Bill progressed through the parliamentary process. Given the lack of a formal update contact was made with the Bill team at the Scottish Government. The following is a summary of the response provided.

### 3. Current Position

- 3.1 The [consultation analysis](#), was published on 26 August 2024. This highlighted that there were strong and diverse views on several key aspects of the Bill. Feedback also highlighted that the original consultation paper was too lengthy and the response timeframe too short. As a consequence the Bill team are taking additional time to gather feedback from stakeholders and people with lived experience of neurodivergence and learning disabilities to help shape proposals.
- 3.2 The Scottish Government's next step will be to publish draft provisions for the Bill. This approach will allow them to share their finalised proposals, seek further views, and ensure they are shaped by wide engagement. The draft provisions will be informed by the three Bill panels: a Stakeholder Panel, a Practitioner Panel and the Lived Experience Advisory Panel (LEAP), whose support continues to be highly valued.

- 3.3 Given the length of the policy development process and the limited parliamentary time remaining in this Session, it is unlikely that the Bill will be introduced to the Scottish Parliament before the next election in May 2026. The precise timing of introduction will be determined by Cabinet when setting future legislative programmes.
- 3.4 The Chief Officer – Children’s Social Work & Family Support Services will continue to update members of the Education and Children’s Services Committee as the Bill navigates the parliamentary process and the financial impact of the Bill becomes clearer.

**Graeme Simpson**

**Chief Officer – Children’s Social Work & Family Support Services/CSWO**

**24 September 2025**