CARE TECH ASSEMBLY SPEAKERS

Nicola Cooper **Scottish Care**	Nicola Cooper is Technology and Digital Innovation Lead at Scottish Care, where she champions ethical, human-led use of technology and AI in social care. She brings deep experience in aged care innovation and works across sectors to foster interdisciplinary partnerships that drive sustainable and meaningful change.
Stephanie Elliot **Scottish Federation for Housing Associations**	Stephanie has spent 15 years helping bridge the worlds of housing, health, and social care. She champions the use of technology to improve digital access, reduce pressure on frontline services, and unlock the full potential of the housing sector's contribution to better health and wellbeing.
Dominic Jarrett **Ayrshire and Arran Learning Disability Service**	Dominic has worked with North Ayrshire's Learning Disability Service for over 20 years, leading research, service development, and arts-based innovation projects. His recent work focuses on the role of technology in the lives of people with learning disabilities, building bridges between social care, design, and creative practice.
Cheryl Stevenson **Scottish Care**	Cheryl's journey into technology began during the pandemic, where she saw its potential to help people live well. As a Care Technologist, she's explored how digital tools can improve lives, uncovering both the barriers and the breakthroughs. Her work now extends into housing, financial inclusion, and remote monitoring projects, and she's recently been trialling the Care Connector role in a digital inclusion initiative for people with learning disabilities in North Ayrshire.
James Davidson **Baillieston Community Care**	James is based at Baillieston Community Care, where he oversees the Care Technology Project. With six years in the social care sector, his work focuses on using digital and assistive technology to help people conditions live more independently at home and improve overall wellbeing.

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Dr Tara French **Scottish Government**	Tara is passionate about genuine co-design and human rights-based approaches in social care and health. With a background spanning academia, policy, and practice, she has shaped national thinking on social care through the development of the Care Technologist role and the value of person-owned data. She currently leads the Digital Inclusion Programme for Digital Health and Care at Scottish Government.
Natalie Curran **BBC**	Natalie is an accessibility specialist at the BBC, bringing energy, creativity, and first-hand experience to her mission of breaking down barriers in tech and media. Recognised in the Shaw Trust Disability Power 100, she's as at home skydiving as she is designing for inclusion.
Jonathan Penny **Channel 4**	Jonathan manages Channel 4's Access Services, overseeing subtitles, audio description and sign language. With experience at ITV and Red Bee Media, he champions equity and accessibility across broadcasting. He's also an audio describer for live events and part of the Royal Television Society's Mini MBA cohort.
Ruth Callander **Scottish Commission** **for Pple with Learning** **Disabilities**	Ruth is the Evidence Lead at SCLD, ensuring that research, data, and lived experience underpin everything they do. She leads projects that champion digital inclusion for people with learning disabilities, including piloting Scotland's first Care Connector role for the learning disability community.
Elizabeth McDowell **Leuchie House**	Elizabeth is Head of Enabling Technology at Leuchie House, where she leads work to support people with neurological conditions to live more independently using technology, research, and innovation. She brings a background in systems development and business analysis, to delivering solutions that empower individuals.

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Chris Mackie **Health & Social Care** **ALLIANCE**	Chris is Director of Digital at the Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE), where he leads the ALISS programme and digital health and care strategy. A champion of human rights and the third sector, he supports inclusive innovation and ensures people remain at the heart of digital transformation.
Seyed Danesh **Higlo**	Seyed is CEO and co-founder of Higlo, with a track record of building tech that connects people in more human ways. Holder of over 30 patents and a lifelong explorer of digital communication, he's optimistic about AI's role in creating more caring, accessible futures.
Alexandre Colle **Konpanion**	Alexandre is the founder of Konpanion, where he creates emotionally intelligent robots to support human care. After building and exiting businesses in luxury hospitality and fashion, he moved into socially assistive robotics, combining his passion for creativity, tech, and human connection. His work blends engineering, textiles, and AI to imagine a more compassionate future for care.
Michael Hayes **Add Jam**	Michael is a developer and community builder who brings Android, iOS, and design expertise to the Add Jam team. A passionate advocate for growing Scotland's tech scene, he founded RookieOven, a thriving community for emerging tech talent.
Lisa Farrell **National Robotarium**	Lisa is Business Development Manager at The National Robotarium, where she works with companies, the public sector, and communities to expand the use of robotics and AI. She's also passionate about opening up STEM careers to young people from low-income backgrounds, using her creative skills, including through her illustrated book, *Imogen the Innovator*.

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Ute Schauberger OpenCast	Ute is a designer and anthropologist working at the intersection of health, technology, and climate. As Service Design Practice Lead at Opencast Software and Course Lead for Service Design for Digital Transformation in Health and Care at The University of Edinburgh, she brings a decade of experience transforming services with and for the people who use them, creating meaningful change.
Jason Railton SCVO	Jason works with SCVO to break down barriers to digital inclusion across Scotland. After more than a decade leading projects like Scotland's Digital Inclusion Charter, he remains driven by a simple belief: everyone deserves the tools to participate fully in our digital world.
Gareth Edwards GoCodeGreen	Gareth is Chief Client Officer at GoCodeGreen, a climate tech company helping organisations decarbonise their technology. With 25 years' experience in digital roles, Gareth brings expertise across strategy, sustainability, and service design. A winner of The Drum's Digital Individual of the Year, he's passionate about creating impactful, low-carbon digital experiences.
Mark Dowey Edinburgh Community Climate Action Network	Mark leads Edinburgh's Climate Hub at ECCAN, helping communities find practical, grassroots solutions to the climate emergency. Drawing on his experience as an architect and expertise in environmental issues, he's passionate about sparking local action that makes neighbourhoods greener, fairer, and more resilient.
Martina Johnston-Gray NorthWest Glasgow Voluntary Sector Network	Martina leads the North West Glasgow Voluntary Sector Network, supporting organisations to strengthen community voices and challenge inequality. Martina also heads the "Plugged In" IT refurbishment project, which has donated over 2,000 devices and saved 18 tonnes of e-waste from landfill, helping citizens stay connected and closing the digital divide.

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Beverly Futtit **National Care Forum**	Beverly is Director of Digital Transformation at the National Care Forum, where she supports adult social care providers to adopt digital technology successfully. With deep experience across local authority commissioning, housing, and workforce development, she is passionate about improving care through digital innovation and practical, values-based leadership.
Katie Thorn **Digital Care Hub**	Katie leads digital projects at the Digital Care Hub, helping social care providers navigate technology, cyber security, and data protection. She also co-convenes the Oxford Project on Generative AI in Adult Social Care. A former carer and operations lead in nursing homes, Katie's work has earned national recognition, including awards for Women in Tech and Public Service Cyber Leadership.
Ruth Cochrane **Glasgow School of Art**	Ruth is a designer and Head of Future Skills at The Glasgow School of Art, based at the Highlands and Islands campus in Forres. She focuses on inclusive upskilling, innovation, and entrepreneurship through design-led approaches. Ruth works closely with the DHI to explore creativity in transforming care, and is a director at education initiative Daydream Believers.
Fraser Smith **Scottish Care**	Fraser is Scottish Care's policy lead for ethical commissioning and procurement, working closely with providers and commissioners to support the implementation of ethical approaches. As a member of national working groups and learning partnerships, he focuses on advancing equity and capability in commissioning by challenging systems and transforming institutional practices.

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George Eckton **Digital Innovation** **Consultant**	George is a creative problem-solver who brings technology and people together to tackle some of social care's biggest challenges. With over 20 years' experience and a passion for community empowerment, he's been behind a series of digital innovation projects — proving that tech can stay human at heart.
Marcus Nisbet **SRS Care**	Marcus is CEO and Director of Specialist Resource Solutions, an international business owner and innovative, sustainability-driven CEO. With expertise in mental health, learning disabilities, and older people's care, he brings a strong sustainability focus and track record of innovation. Under his leadership, SRS became the first to adopt the Care Technologist role in practice, and he continues to lead forward-thinking, collaborative approaches to care.
Lynn Laughland **HRM Homecare** **Services**	Lynn is the CEO and Founder of HRM Homecare and an experienced consultant across health, social care, and training. With a strong commercial skillset and a commitment to quality, she brings strategic insight and real-world leadership to delivering person-centred, sustainable care.
James Sinclair **Care City**	James is Chief Operating Officer at Care City, where he helps turn bold ideas into real-world change. With a background in research, innovation and partnership-building across health, care and community sectors, James is especially skilled at cutting through complexity and making collaboration feel easy, inclusive and effective.

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