

Proposed Bill to abolish charges for non-residential social care

Page 2: About you

Please provide your name and other contact details. Please provide at least one means of contacting you (address, e-mail or telephone) - e-mail is our preferred option. (NB: you will be given the option shortly to specify whether it is your name or your organisation's name that is to be used, and you may also request anonymity or confidentiality for your response.)

Your name (mandatory)

██████████

Name of your organisation (if applicable - otherwise leave blank)

██████

Your Job Title (if applicable - otherwise leave blank)

████████████████████

Contact details (please provide at least one of: email, telephone number, postal address) (mandatory)

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Please indicate below whether you are content for your response to be attributed to you by name (either your name or that of your organisation)

I would like my response to be anonymous (the response may be published, but no name)

Page 4: Your comments on the proposal

Q1: Do you support the principle that non-residential social care services should be available free at the point of delivery to those who have been assessed by a relevant professional as requiring them (as is the case within health care)?

Yes

Please explain your answer

People assessed as requiring support should not be further disadvantaged financially for needing this. It is necessary for a fair assessment process to be identified and implemented that is not used to make efficiency savings or further cuts to services or organisations delivering support to people. This compromises quality and standards as it makes it impossible for organisations to afford the correct levels of staff and quality monitoring processes required to oversee direct work done with individuals.

Q2. Do you agree that legislation is a necessary and appropriate means of addressing the issues identified?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your response

There is a certain amount of irresponsibility in how people are charged for services that are being cut at the same time by local authorities. Legislation will attach more responsibility and accountability for charges firmly with local authorities and providers.

Q3. The current system has resulted in varying charges in different areas for the same level and quality of service. Do you agree that there should be consistency across Scotland?

Yes

What do you think the advantages and disadvantages would be?

Costs will be more expensive for rural support services than urban and models of support will be different. This shouldn't affect the quality of the support that is delivered to the individual if it is factored into the budgets for different models.

Q4. Should all social care related services be free at the point of delivery?

Yes

If you answered Yes, please explain your reasons. If you answered No, please explain which services should be excluded, and why. (Please refer to the services set out on page 7 of the consultation document).

If these services are funded appropriately. Many local authorities have closed social care services delivered by organisations and stripped organisations of funding for social care services over the past number of years leaving many people without appropriate levels of support. Some local authorities have also used the introduction of self-directed support budgets as another form of cost-cutting or efficiency savings instead of actually meeting the needs of individuals and for these to be truly self-directed, especially for those with mental health issues.

Q5. What are the likely financial implications (if any) of the proposed Bill to you or your organisation? What (if any) other significant financial implications are likely to arise?

We deliver a range of services to individuals including self-directed support, care at home and housing support, all of which we are required to receive some form of payment from individuals to 'top-up' a shortfall. We would require this to be paid by local authorities otherwise we would not be able to deliver the services to the individuals we currently do. These payments vary across the country presently.

Q6. What do you think the implications of the proposed Bill are for equality? If it is likely to have a substantial negative implication, how might this be minimised or avoided?

Positive

Q7. Are there any other comments you would wish to make that are relevant to this proposal?

The financial implications of introducing free non-residential social care have to be properly factored into the bill and fair accounting to organisations currently delivering services for local authorities but not protected by legislation that safeguards quality and associated costs.