

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)

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

Social care services should be free at the point of need because people with a disability should not be penalised in this way for something so essential to their enjoyment of a quality of life afforded to every other citizen.

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

Legislation must mean that there is no charge for social care in Scotland.

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?

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Yes

What do you think the advantages and disadvantages would be?

The consistent position should be that there is no charge for social care across Scotland in any area. The level and quality of service should not be affected by where a person with a disability lives, particularly in areas where Councils have previously generated higher income by charging higher levels for social care (or have taken less account of reporting disability related expenditure).

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).

All social care services should be free at the point of delivery. This is particularly important for people with multiple and complex needs (with alcohol & mental health problems or a history of homelessness or Adult ADHD).

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?

There would be no financial implications for my organisation if social care charges were to be fully paid by the local authority, as they should still be required to pay an adequate rate for the service being delivered to each individual. The likely implications for an individual receiving social care services would be that they would be able to afford to live an ordinary life without increased mental health symptoms created by the stress and distress that financial poverty creates. Charging people for social care services creates a greater need for social care services so is a false economy (creates additional spending over time often at a higher level per person than it would have cost if the person had remained in a more stable set of circumstances throughout). Stress and distress often creates further mental instability, causes harm and disadvantages people with disabilities.

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

Please explain your answer. If you answered Negative, please suggest any ways this impact could be minimised or avoided.

Social care services that are free at the point of need are essential to ensure equality for people with a disability and for the Government and all local authorities to meet their responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010. Without this, people with a disability, particularly those with especially complex needs, will never achieve an equal status in society. This creates people are not enabled to grow and develop (people having to pay for social care will lose the support they need to contribute positively to society) as well as needing to increase budgets for social care services because people with complex needs (homelessness, addictions, mental health, Adult ADHD) are not adequately supported to learn new skills, have new experiences and move towards becoming a citizen, which leads to people needing more support for longer.

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

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No Response