

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

If clients are charged for services then there are particular groups, like those on the autistic spectrum, who fail to access appropriate services. This puts additional stress on the informal network of family and friends who act as carers for these people, which may result in their reduced productivity - effecting the economy.

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

Undecided

Please explain the reasons for your response

The ability of local councils to act independently in response to the needs of their area is important. I don't think this should be constrained without good cause. National guidance would be good so that the framework that all councils are using is similar. Perhaps an approach like the Scottish Autism Strategy might be one way of encouraging a more uniform approach.

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?

Undecided

What do you think the advantages and disadvantages would be?

The costs of delivering services may be different in different areas. I would question whether charges should be passed on to clients.

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

Undecided

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).

In general people value things that they make some contribution towards, and using this principle I can see that asking for some contribution would have some purpose, but there needs to be a way of making it affordable.

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?

None, not a member of an organisation

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.

There appear to be anomalies in the provision of social care, as to who is charged, and how much that charge is. Removing all charges puts everyone on an equal footing, with the care provided without charge.

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

When my son was advised that he should apply for support through the SDS process he was advised that he would have to "sign up" to the service before an assessment of the service that would be offered to him was made. He was also told that whatever level of service he was deemed to need he would have a 50% charge on everything over a flat rate deemed to be the weekly amount needed to live on. He was not advised of the specialist service for those on the autistic spectrum going through SDS, and the difficulty of making this kind of mistake with someone on the spectrum is that once they have made up their minds it is extremely hard to get them to change their view. Without a clear idea of what the benefits of going through the assessment process (and for most people who are applying for SDS they will have had assessments aplenty with Work Capability Assessment, DLA/PIP assessments, and the argument that we were offered that they couldn't spend government money without doing an assessment ignores the fact that these other assessments were done by different branches of government. There is a Scottish Autism Strategy, but the fine words in that strategy have not made much difference to our situation.

