

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) [REDACTED]

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

Your Job Title (if applicable - otherwise leave blank) [REDACTED]

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

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 am content for my response to be attributed to my organisation

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

We think people who are disabled or have a health issue, have a right to receive free services which allow them to live life in their own home, in the same way as an able bodied person. This prevents them from having to take the next step of possibly going into care.

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

No

Please explain the reasons for your response

Because not everyone is the same, people must be treated as individuals, you cannot put a blanket legislation in place, it just wouldn't work

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?

People in rural areas will get access to the same services as others in urban areas. The disadvantages could be that we can't meet with demand.

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

No

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 services should be means tested, but people must have access to them no matter which category they are in. I think the way charges are worked out for people paying needs to be looked at i.e. a council charging £111 for a person going to day care compared to £5 for someone who doesn't have to pay.

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?

Not much to our organisation, unless it relates to transport services, but it will have a huge effect on a lot of our service users, who are mainly vulnerable, elderly, disabled or with a long term health condition.

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?

Negative

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

As I said previously, there will be so many people affected if it is a blanket decision. People must all be assessed and a decision be made as to their ability to live alone without support. The knock on effect of people not being supported could only lead to one thing, a bigger burden on the health service.

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

Listen to organisations who represent disabled people, they have lots of good examples of what it is like to live on your own without support. Listen to representatives of SDEF, they have so much knowledge from their members.