# 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 am content for my response to be attributed to me (as an individual)

## 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

In our household having access to care is essential. My partner has limb girdle muscular dystrophy and as a result has no use of her legs and severely limited use of her arms. It means she requires care to get out of bed, get dressed, get washed, use the toilet, accessing food and drink. As a result of the care I provide, unpaid care, I can not work. My partner is limited to working only a small number of hours a week due to her condition. This all means we have limited finances before you even consider the other costs involved with living with a disability. The limit care she receives from paid carers puts a further strain on our finances due to non residential care charges. It's always a constant worry that the cost will continue to rise until we are forced to rely solely on myself to provide all care. It also means we are limited in where we can live. If we move to certain local authorities we would be hit with even higher rates for the non residential care charges. People should have to pay money to the local authority just to be able to go to the toilet.

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

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your response

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

The current lack of legislation means it is a post code lottery in how in charges are applied, and how much is charged. This is deeply unfair.

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?

Advantages of equal fees would be everyone treated the same. It would allow people to move to different areas without the fear that they would suddenly find themselves having to pay more in care charges. Disadvantages would be the rate set higher that what some people are paying in certain local authorities now. And charging anything is still deeply unfair.

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).

I only have experience of personal care being required. Out with this is have limited knowledge and can't really comment.

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 would have more money in the bank each month. We would no longer worry that next year when the councils are facing with making even larger savings that the cost of care will job dramatically. It would mean we no long worry that costs would reach a stage where it would no longer be possible for us to pay resulting in me having to provide all the care.

It is a constant source of worry for us.

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.

For us it would be positive. It may be negative for local authorities budgets but that should never have been passed on to the most vulnerable in the first place.

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

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

No Response