

# 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)

Children's Hospice Association

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

In principle, yes. This would bring care provision into line with that provided for children up until they reach 18. Many families struggle at the stage of transition to manage the complexity of changing from children's to adult care providers. To remove the complexity of charging from that could ease things. However, if direct payments worked more consistently across Scotland it would not be needed. We would also be concerned that removing payment could limit choice, particularly around psycho-social elements of care. Currently with direct payments young people can make this choice.

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

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**

If the legislation included clearly what a young person needed in a holistic sense as well as a physical sense.

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?**

Yes there should be consistency across Scotland but this should not result in complete uniformity. The needs of the young people we support vary enormously and any new system would ideally need to provide a range of services to allow person-centred building of packages of care. The disadvantage of a consistent service may be that person-centred and individualisation is more difficult to achieve. Another disadvantage may be a discontinuation of the direct payments system when it may be more cost effective to really push this to be more consistently and easily available. In principle, direct payments offer exactly that choice and flexibility.

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).**

Yes – or at least through direct payments. It would be easier for young people to apply and expect care based on their need. Most young people with life shortening conditions are unable to find employment (in our experience) and there are often complex means test assessments of parental income done. Often we find young people don't fully benefit from all care choices available to them because it may have a negative impact on the family finances. Removing charges would reduce this.

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?

CHAS is a voluntary sector organisation. The care we offer is free at the point of delivery anyway so this would be unlikely to change. However, we have a service level agreement hosted by COSLA. We would need to understand whether this may be at risk if local authorities were expected to meet the full costs of social care services. Local authorities may want to enter into complex service level agreements with CHAS that would make it more complicated to deliver care on a needs based assessment.

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?

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?

Undecided

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

Free at the point of access should be a positive step for equality. However, if local authorities can determine the type of service they will provide, it may reduce choice.

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

Many young people have complex and exceptional health care needs that can only be met by qualified health and experienced nursing staff. Additionally they have social needs of any other young people. If using direct payments, they may choose to employ a nurse to support them go to a social event or meet with friends. Would this level of flexibility be lost within this proposed bill?