

# 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)**

Pamela Collinson

**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**

Yes I do. In many ways, the social care support is as necessary as health care and can be seen for many people, as a proactive measure to promote the health and well-being of individuals and thus avoid deterioration in either physical or emotional health.

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**

I agree that legislation is necessary, as it ensures that there is a sense of equality for all recipients of social care. It would ensure that everyone accessing social care support has the same rights and is treated the same. It would also ensure that if there were to be charges, there would be some continuity between Local Authorities and not the "post code" lottery which it appears to be at present.

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?**

The advantages would be that we are treating everyone equally.

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, I feel that social care support is as vital as health care. There are a lot of people receiving support which prevents or quickly identifies deterioration in health and well-being and this in itself is a plus. It is a pro-active measure of lessening the burden on our healthcare. Early detection and intervention is best for the individual too, it can prevent in-patient support and ensure that the person receives the correct level of care in their own home environment.

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 have had experience of people stopping their support due to the cost implications. This has left parents struggling and juggling their home life to ensure that their relative is okay. The individual requiring support is not having that vital support whilst the Local Authority staff support parents to look at their finances. To be able to get support for a relative (and vital respite for the parent/carer) and not be concerned about affordability would be fantastic for those who are currently struggling. We support many people who are trying to live as independently as possible and access their community but are unable to do so, as they do not have the finances now due to support charges. The Keys to Life document is a fantastic driver of aspirations, however we have experienced many difficulties as the support charges have made a very tight budget for individuals' even tighter.

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.**

I feel that equality is essential. Despite lots of initiatives, people with disabilities / older people are already marginalised, so any legislation which promotes equality should be welcomed positively. The current situation is difficult for people and the impact of charges has been very dramatic for some individuals and I don't think that it has helped the situation by knowing that the financial impact of support charges depends on where you stay. That is not fair and could be seen as discrimination in itself.

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

Some resolution needs to be sought, even if it is only to find a fairer and more reasonable way to "charge" people for social care support, however the best outcome would be to abolish the charges and to recognise

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

and respect the importance of this type of support, not only for recipients but for the wider communities. Social care support is vital in supporting, complementing and enhancing the healthcare system we already have in place.