

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) andrew harrison

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

Social care is provided free of charge to pensioners, why not the disabled who are being charged increasingly higher amounts to cover councils budget shortfall created partly by the council tax freeze. My personal situation: Live in East Ayrshire, c5 spinal cord injury, married (wife main carer and works full time). Due to my wife getting a full time job as a band 3 health care assistant with £18,000 salary our charges were trebled to £5,000 annually. Her salary in her previous home care role was doubled by moving to her new job, but our charges increased over £3,000 due to the tariff being increased to 60%. I guess we're 'lucky' that EAC set a cap on the charge, otherwise our charge would be even higher! We currently cannot afford to plan for children due to the increased charges and pay more towards my care (so that my wife can go to work) than we currently pay for our mortgage. Due to the way 'living expenses' are calculated home owners are unfairly charged as only the interest of a mortgage is included. This means people who rent (whose full rent is included) receive an unfair advantage

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

Yes

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

Even if charges cannot be fully abolished due to cost, the range of charging criteria across the 32 authorities mean people in some areas are charged much more. Legislation ensures equity across the country. ILF used to have a set tariff (half of care component of dla or equivalent) regardless of care needs or household income

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?
equity and fairness

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).

some services meet more than 'basic needs'. As a recipient of SDS budget, I don't mind contributing per say, however if the care related benefits, such as dla or AA are being exceeded the charges are higher than governments assessed care funding

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?

My wife and I can afford to look at family planning and IVF which is required due to my disability - especially as free nhs entitlement was reduced from 3 gos to 2 in my area

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.

increased disposable income for disabled people mirroring the increased free child care for parents

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

No Response