

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)

Jacqui Law

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)

[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 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

My daughter is 19, she currently pays a 'contribution' towards her care; she has SDS to employ PAs. We have been advised that the amount will be increased to at least £45 per week when her contract is renewed. Without our financial support she could not have afford to live a good life. Why should she pay? Typical people, rightly, get free education in this country, free NHS, toilets and parks which are accessible - I do not grudge my taxes paying for this. So why shouldn't my daughter's care be free?

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

Experience shows that relying on individual Local Authorities simply doesn't work. Some Local Authorities are charging the poorest, most vulnerable people £75 per week client 'contribution'. It's immoral; it's a postcode and... it will never be addressed by the Local Authority unless they have no choice.

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, if that means no charge. If you cannot secure free then at least choose a minimal amount.

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).

Decent health, housing, ability to eat, live a good life are all basic human rights. The clue is in the 'rights', it should not be dependent on money in the bank

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?

As a parent and guardian, abolishing charges will mean that I can rest easy and no longer have that gnawing fear and anxiety that she will not manage when I am gone, and no one is able to help her. For my daughter it will mean that the whole concept of Self Directed Support will actually represent the ethos the Scottish Government foresaw - that support will be based on need and give people control. You have no control if you are scared to accept a support if it will put you into poverty paying for it.

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

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

If you broke your leg and went to A & E the staff would assess your need and do what they could to meet that need. They would not assess your need, propose a solution and then ask for your financial details so they could charge you.

But that's what happens now. I know people who simply cannot accept the support they need because the care charges would mean that they would move into poverty.