

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)

Shetland Health and Social Care Partnership

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)?

No

Please explain your answer

No, on the basis that without replacement funding from a national source, that the overall resource envelope available would be less, potentially disadvantaging the poorest where there would be less services.

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

No

Please explain the reasons for your response

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Before any legislation there needs to be a full and open public debate on the future funding of social care in Scotland and the value which society places on social care, and how society pays for that now and into the future.

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?

No

What do you think the advantages and disadvantages would be?

Removing the ability of councils to make local decisions about charges (whether and how much to charge for different services) would have a negative impact on local democracy and direct accountability which exists between the community and their council for the decisions taken.

Q4. Should all social care related services be free at the point of delivery?

No

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).

This requires wider public engagement and debate. The budget is finite, and in some cases decisions about what should be charged for should be left to the local democratic process.

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?

The organisation would lose income, which would result in less budget to spend on overall social care. This would be compounded over time. The shortfall could impact on other areas of the council.

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?

Negative

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

Those people with the least personal resources will have the least ability to find their own solutions. As a group, they could be impacted upon most by overall reductions in the availability of social care provision (on the presumption that there is no income from charging).

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

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No Response