

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)

Ronnie Stevenson

Name of your organisation (if applicable - otherwise leave blank)

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Your Job Title (if applicable - otherwise leave blank)

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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

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

Yes

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

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

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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).

Social Care Services free at the point of delivery is the best way to provide a universal service which all in need will be able to avail themselves of. It could also diminish the need for more intrusive and more expensive residential care.

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?

It will raise the issue of conflict between personal payments to individuals to "buy" services versus universal provision through taxation.

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

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

The need for the cessation of personal payments to pay through general taxation will require explanation as will the need for a vigorous public campaign of information to promote the advantages. Too many older people don't ask for help because they think they may be unable to afford (and they may be right) the current benefit/payment structure.