

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

SCRUTINY OF THE DRAFT BUDGET 2015-16

SUBMISSION FROM THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE ALLIANCE SCOTLAND

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) is the national third sector intermediary for a range of health and social care organisations. It brings together over 780 members, including a large network of national and local third sector organisations, associates in the statutory and private sectors and individuals.

The ALLIANCE vision is for a Scotland where people of all ages who are disabled or living with long term conditions, and unpaid carers, have a strong voice and enjoy their right to live well, as equal and active citizens, free from discrimination, with support and services that put them at the centre.

The ALLIANCE welcomes the opportunity to comment on issues around transitions as highlighted by the Equal Opportunities Committee and makes the following brief comments:

Children and Young People

- **Childcare** – we welcome the commitment of £280m over two years to deliver expanded childcare provision to 600 hours for three and four year olds. However, there is a concern that it does not recognise the barriers faced by disabled children and their families to find inclusive and accessible childcare at a cost equal to that of other families. Disabled children are often prevented from attending their local provision due to geographical, staffing, or accessibility reasons. As such, no matter how many hours they are entitled to, without appropriately supported childcare the benefits of this proposal will not be equitably felt by the families of disabled children.
- **Apprenticeships** – the commitment to fund apprenticeships to support young people, specifically proposals to introduce foundation apprenticeships, is welcome, however as the Equality and Human Rights Commission Scotland has previously reported less than 0.5% of all Modern Apprenticeship placements are taken by someone who is declared as disabled despite comprising 8% of the target population of 16-24 year olds¹. A stronger emphasis is required on supporting disabled people and people who live with long term conditions across Scotland to access these opportunities. One of the main issues for disabled

¹http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/documents/Scotland/Research/modern_apprenticeships_final.pdf

young people making the transition to adulthood is the lack of opportunities beyond college.

- **Employment** – despite the strong emphasis on youth employment and maintaining the Opportunities for All programme within the draft budget, there remains inequality in disabled young people’s access to employment and training opportunities. In order to advance equalities, the Scottish Government should adopt recommendation 27 of the Wood Commission² which called for “promotion and communication of career options should actively target equalities groups to promote diverse participation across gender, Black & Minority Ethnic groups, young people with disabilities and care leavers. The promotion of Modern Apprenticeship opportunities should be to the fore of this activity.”
- **Self-directed Support** – the draft budget’s intention to support the further integration of SDS across health and social care is supported. While the ear-marked £12 million to promote SDS is welcomed, we believe that the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act presents an opportunity to fully integrate budgets between education, health and social care by matching resource allocation to the Child’s Plan, which could follow young people from the pre-transition phase into adulthood transferring to employment support when appropriate.
- **Poverty** – the draft budget recognises that child poverty is a key determinant of health, but it should also recognise that being a disabled person, living with a long term condition or being an unpaid carer also results in poverty. Taking a preventative approach decreasing disability related poverty could reduce spend on consequential effects of poverty on health and social inclusion. By relating this to access to benefit entitlement, young disabled people could be better equipped to transition into adulthood more independently. While we lend our support to the commitment to kinship care, young people leaving care, and children in the Hearings system, we would welcome some recognition of the increased likelihood of disabled young people living in poverty and the economic barriers this presents.

Older People

- The ALLIANCE welcomes the continuation of policies which make a positive difference to people's lives as they get older, for example, free personal care, free prescriptions and the national concessionary travel scheme.
- **Housing** – the investment in affordable homes outlined in the draft budget, £390m for 6000 homes (Page 8), alongside the maintained provision of £10

² <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0045/00451746.pdf>

million for Registered Social Landlords to continue adapting their properties to help meet the needs of older people and disabled people to continue adapting their properties. As people become older their needs change and, in some instances, they are unable to remain in their own homes because the buildings are not sufficiently accessible or adapted to their needs.

- **Public Service Reform** – the emphasis on public service reform based on adopting approaches that are asset-based, co-produced and person-centred to bring about effective and sustained change is extremely welcome. There is a significant opportunity to build on the Reshaping Care for Older People agenda.
- **Carers** – it is important to note that older people have a critical role to play in supporting other older people to live independently at home and stay out of the formal care system. Older people provide more care than they receive.

“It is estimated that just over 3,000 people over 65 years receive more than 20 hours of paid care per week while over 40,000 people over 65 years provide more than 20 hours unpaid care per week³. Helping to support, sustain and grow this capacity, as well as that of friends and neighbours, is essential if we are to achieve better outcomes for more older people during a period of financial constraint.” **Scottish Government: Reshaping Care for Older People – A Programme For Change 2011 - 2021⁴**

The draft budget should further recognise this role.

- **Prevention, tackling inequalities and integration** – to improve outcomes with and for older people, future investment must include greater role for and capacity of third sector organisations and community supports for older people. The third sector provides over a third of formal social care and a wealth of community-based support that is often the linchpin in enabling people to stay well, remain active, involved and in their communities.
- **Self Management** – the draft budget acknowledges the need to support people to manage their own mental health and places a welcome emphasis on children and early years. There is, however, a need to ensure that issues among older people, particularly related to loneliness⁵, are addressed.
- **Digital Public Services** – the emphasis placed on digital approaches and the implementation of Scotland's Digital Future as spelt out on Page 49 of the draft

³ ISDScotland hospital discharge records (SMR01) (2008/09); GRO (Scotland) population estimates 2008

⁴ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/resource/0039/00398295.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/living-with-loneliness.pdf>

budget are very welcome, but recognition is needed that digital approaches are less accessible for many older people at present. Non-digital approaches need to accompany this to avoid the risk of age-based inequity of access/outcomes.

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About the ALLIANCE

The ALLIANCE has three core aims; we seek to:

- Ensure people are at the centre, that their voices, expertise and rights drive policy and sit at the heart of design, delivery and improvement of support and services.
- Support transformational change, towards approaches that work with individual and community assets, helping people to stay well, supporting human rights, self management, co-production and independent living.
- Champion and support the third sector as a vital strategic and delivery partner and foster better cross-sector understanding and partnership.