

Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Bill

McCarthy & Stone

About McCarthy & Stone

Established in 1963 McCarthy & Stone provides 70 per cent of all private retirement and Extra Care accommodation (marketed as Assisted Living) for older homeowners in the UK. The company has built 50,000 dwellings across 1,000 schemes in the UK, which together house approximately 70,000 older people.

Across Scotland, McCarthy & Stone has developed more than 80 retirement developments providing more than 3,600 homes.

McCarthy & Stone is currently the only UK provider of Extra Care Assisted Living accommodation for older owner-occupiers with additional care and support needs in the private sector.

Extra Care accommodation is a very specialist form of purpose-built, well-located, specially designed accommodation for older owner-occupiers who have additional care and support needs. It's designed to offer companionship, comfort and security, while allowing people to remain independent.

It is an affordable alternative to a residential care or nursing home - residents own their own home *and* access domestic and personal care and support services on a need-by-need basis.

Currently, McCarthy & Stone have two developments under construction, Cults in Aberdeen and Giffnock in Glasgow, and a further development in Barnton, Edinburgh about to go to planning.

The Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Bill – hereafter referred to as the SDS Bill – will ensure that residents in our developments are able to exercise choice of the care they receive.

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

1. Are you generally in favour of the Bill and its provisions?

McCarthy & Stone fully support the SDS Bill and what it seeks to achieve. We feel that empowering people with choice and control over their support is crucial to a care service that seeks to treat people as partners in the care they receive rather than the recipients of care.

Scotland is facing unprecedented demographic change with more than one million people already aged over 65, with the proportion of this sector of Scotland's population expected to grow by 62% by 2031¹.

¹ British Geriatric Society (Scotland) 2011 Manifesto

The Christie Commission rightly noted there is a need to deliver care services to meet the rising expectations and aspirations of the public. The same is true in housing. The vast majority of older people consistently say they want to remain in their own home as they age.

McCarthy & Stone's Extra Care Assisted Living developments offer older people the opportunity to retain their independence safe in the knowledge they can access domestic and personal care and support services.

2. What are your views on the principles proposed?

McCarthy & Stone is supportive of the general principles of 'involvement', 'informed choice' and 'collaboration'.

These principles describe how the care service aims to interact with people and seeks to help define self-directed support. However, they could also be used to describe how McCarthy & Stone seek to engage with older people and local authorities.

McCarthy & Stone's Extra Care Assisted Living accommodation is designed and built to meet the specific requirements and rising aspirations of older owner-occupiers who need additional care and support.

In the coming four years, we are seeking to invest up to £100 million in Scotland, across our Retirement Living and Extra Care Assisted Living accommodation, as a complement to, not a replacement of, local authority housing for older people.

3. What are your views on the four options for self-directed support proposed in the Bill?

McCarthy & Stone are supportive of the four options for self-directed support outlined in the Bill. We believe that giving people choice over how, when and from whom they receive their care is a vital part of a care service that aims to be more flexible and responsive to people's needs.

Question 4- 7. N/A

8. Do you agree with the approach taken by the Scottish Government not to place restrictions on who may be employed by an individual through the proposals in the Bill?

McCarthy & Stone fully agree with the choice not to place restrictions on who may be employed by an individual. The overall policy aim of the Bill is to provide people with choice and control over their support. To place restrictions on who may be employed would be contrary to this.

McCarthy & Stone Retirement Lifestyles Ltd work in partnership with Somerset Care to provide support for people in our Extra Care Assisted Living developments. To that end Yourlife Management Services Limited (the Joint Venture Company) has applied to the Scottish Care Inspectorate for registration to provide Care at Home and Housing Support Services to the

residents of the Extra Care developments it is building in Giffnock and Aberdeen. This Bill will enable residents, of the soon to be built, Extra Care Assisted Living developments in Scotland to choose for themselves who should provide their care and support in later life.

Working in partnership with Somerset Care, McCarthy & Stone ensure that all staff are qualified above minimum standards.

Question 9- 11. N/A

Concluding Remarks

McCarthy & Stone would like to reiterate our support for this Bill and our commitment to ensuring that upon implementation it delivers on its aim to provide people with choice and control over their support.

To this end, we would like to offer to appear before the Committee during the oral evidence sessions should the committee decide this would be beneficial.

McCarthy & Stone
24 April 2012