

WELFARE REFORM COMMITTEE

THE FUTURE DELIVERY OF SOCIAL SECURITY IN SCOTLAND

WRITTEN SUBMISSION RECEIVED FROM CORNERSTONE

I gave the following example to a meeting I hosted in Aberdeen with Lord Smith of Kelvin during the Smith Commission consultation and have been asked to share it with yourselves as part of your deliberations into the welfare system and how it might be improved by 2020 if Scotland is to receive additional powers.

The case study is real and although many of the funds received and applied for are not under the banner of 'welfare' payments controlled by DWP they all need to be considered if the aim is indeed to simplify the process and ensure state funds are used to benefit people where and when they are needed most.

Mr A is a 28 year old man with a diagnosis of a genetic condition which results in a significant learning disability and the need for financial and practical support. This is a life-long condition, the effects of which will not change. He lives in a flat and has been assessed as requiring 60 hours of housing support per week and 7 'sleepovers'.

He receives the higher rate for care of Disability Living Allowance and the lower rate for mobility.

He used to receive income support and incapacity benefit but now is in receipt of Employment Support Allowance.

He has been placed in the care and support group as he will never be in a position to get paid employment.

He is eligible for housing benefit.

He is eligible for council tax exemption.

He is assessed and because his income (above) is over a certain limit he has to contribute towards his care costs of £93 a month.

He used to receive Independent Living Fund until this was stopped.

Under option 2 of Self Directed Support he is being assessed for a Direct Payment or individual service fund. If this is the route chosen (and the one being pushed by the government) he will be expected to employ his own assistants and ensure employment law compliance and employer liability insurance is in place. He needs to manage the time sheets and payroll and manage a separate bank account – none of which he has the capacity to do and which will fall on his legal guardian.

His SDS budget may be used to pay for supported employment - the contract and payments would need to be managed.

I hope this gives you an insight into the complexity of one person's case and the added burden of applying for (7 separate applications/forms needed to access the above) and managing all of this when a person has limited capacity.

Edel Harris
Chief Executive
18 August 2015