

PE1533/NN

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport submission of 22 January 2019

During my evidence to the Public Petitions Committee on 10th January 2019, I committed to write to you with further information on a number of points raised by the Committee.

Costings

I undertook to share with the Committee the figures for the costs and numbers receiving personal care.

The Scottish Government's funding for free personal care is included in the overall block grant within the annual local government finance settlement. There is no separately identifiable funding allocation and it is the responsibility of each individual local authority to allocate the total resources available to them to individual services including free personal care. An additional £30 million will be added to the 2019-20 local government finance settlement to support free personal care for the under 65s.

The latest data on free personal care was published on 31 July 2018 and showed that in 2016-17, 45,780 people aged over 65 received a personal care service in their own home. Local authorities spent £379 million on providing or purchasing personal care services for people living at home.

In 2016-17 there were 30,670 long-stay residents in care homes in Scotland. 9,870 self-funding care home residents aged over 65 received Free Personal Care payments and 5,940 self-funding care home residents of all ages received Free Nursing Care payments. Payments to self-funding care home residents in 2016-17 totalled £123 million.

The Finance Secretary announced in our draft budget provision of £40 million to support the continued implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 and extending free personal care to under 65s. This includes provision of £30 million to cover the costs of the extension for existing service users, estimated demand from new service users, administration costs and payments to self-funders in residential care.

In 2016-17, 10,292 people under the age of 65 received personal care at home. This includes home care clients and clients with any SDS option with assessed need for Personal Care. In addition, there are around 3,500 people under 65 in residential care. Of those, it is estimated that 98% are supported by the local authority, suggesting that only around 2% (fewer than 100) are self-funders. Our planning for the introduction takes these clients into account as well as preparing us for additional clients receiving personal care for the first time after 1st April.

The assumptions and modelling around the extension were undertaken by Scottish Government officials working with the Implementation Advisory Group's Finance Sub-Group, and were agreed by the full Implementation Advisory Group. The full composition of both groups is set out in an annex to this letter. Data sources used to arrive at these costs include Scottish Government data; a survey of local authorities undertaken as part of a published feasibility study; local modelling by members of the IAG; projections based on the main supported people client groups; Local Government Financial returns; and comparison with the impact of introducing free personal care for older people.

We acknowledge the petitioner's view that those who receive smaller packages of personal care will benefit less from the extension of free personal care than those with larger packages of personal care. Our aim in extending free personal care was to move to a consistent approach for under and over 65s rather than maintaining a separate approach for different age groups.

Consideration of the cost of care and how care is paid for will be part of the wider work of the national programme to support adult social care reform. More information on the programme and how it is being developed is included in this letter. As I said at the meeting, we have been listening to the broader concerns around resourcing for social care, charging and equity in this context, and also around the impact that the way in which costs of the largest social care packages are managed locally can have on individuals. We have been in discussions with partners, including COSLA, in this context, to consider proposals for how things could be done differently and I will come back to the Committee in the summer with further information on that work when it is more developed.

Monitoring of Free Personal Care

The Committee sought further information on the monitoring of the extension. Systems are being put in place to monitor the costs to local authorities and numbers of people benefiting from the extension of free personal care, and this will provide information on the additional costs and ensure that the extension is appropriately funded for the future. COSLA and our Implementation Advisory Group have been working with us on the monitoring requirements and processes and we will be meeting with the IAG in February to finalise the monitoring tools before conducting trial runs of the information gathering.

The monitoring tools will use information provided by local authorities to collate the local authority expenditure on care at home and personal care; and numbers of people receiving care at home and personal care, with those figures broken down into those with physical disability, learning disability, those with mental health problems and other conditions.

Alongside that we will also work with people with lived experience of social care support and the social care system to understand the impact of the extension on individuals, including on changes to individual's social care charges. This will involve the People-led Policy Panel (see below for more information about the Panel), existing social care user groups, and stakeholder organisations working with people who use support.

People-led Policy Panel and leadership for the national programme to support adult social care reform

The Committee also requested further information about the People-led Policy Panel and wider leadership for the national programme to support reform of adult social care.

The People-led Policy Panel is a new engagement framework funded by Scottish Government and hosted by Inclusion Scotland. The Panel consists of 50 members, with a core group of 19 people who meet on a more regular basis. All members are people who have lived experience of adult social care support, including carers.

While Inclusion Scotland is hosting the project, members of the People-led Policy Panel are not exclusively disabled people. They represent a range of people who use adult social care support for different purposes. Both the core group and wider panel are geographically and equalities diverse. Inclusion Scotland engaged with a range of partners during the recruitment to the Panel and will continue to do so as the initiative develops.

The core group and wider panel are made up of individuals, not organisations. Members are not there to represent anyone or a particular set of views.

The People-led Policy Panel is currently inputting to the development of the national programme to support local reform of adult social care. While they will initially be focusing on this piece of work, the ambition and intention is for them to contribute more widely to the development of relevant policy across government.

The national programme is being developed collaboratively, with people who use social care support, a wide range of local and national organisations, the social services sector, Health and Social Care Partnerships, and professionals and individuals from the wider support and services landscape. The People-led Policy Panel is there to complement, not replace existing engagement methods or service user groups. The programme will continue to create and use opportunities for other people who use social care support to participate. The programme also continues to welcome input from all organisations and individuals with ideas, experiences, and expertise to share, so that the reform activity is developed and taken forward collectively. This includes the SACT campaign members and their views.

We have just completed a period of engagement to seek views and input on developing the programme. People's feedback is being analysed, and themes identified. The themes that arise will be considered by the People-led Policy Panel at the core group's second meeting, which will take place in early 2019. Using the feedback from the engagement process, the group will determine the priority areas that the programme will focus on.

Alongside the People-led Policy Panel, we have also worked with COSLA and the wider social services sector to establish a Leadership Alliance for the national programme. This partnership will be responsible for providing collective leadership across the sector and strategic direction for the programme, and for creating the conditions necessary to take forward changes nationally.

The Leadership Alliance comprises representatives from across local and national government, social care providers, the social services workforce, and regulatory and improvement bodies. There is a direct relationship between the People-led Policy Panel and the Leadership Alliance, and the two groups will work collectively on the programme.

The membership of the reform programme Leadership Alliance is also set out in the Annex to this letter.

Review of COSLA Charging Guidance

As members noted, the Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 2002 gives Scottish Ministers powers to regulate care charges. The Scottish Government has not used these powers up to this point, preferring to work closely with COSLA and respecting local autonomy.

Guidance on charging for non-residential care is updated annually by COSLA, and in recent years has included some steps towards greater consistency.

Following discussion with the Scottish Government, and provision of funding, COSLA has updated this guidance to reflect raising of charging thresholds, support for veterans - and will be updated again to reflect changes to legislation on free personal care to extend this to under 65s.

COSLA are closely involved in the work on the reform of adult social care. Any consideration of charging policy undertaken as part of the reform process would necessarily consider aspects of the COSLA charging guidance.

Implementation Advisory Group Membership

David Fotheringham	Scottish Government
Garrick Smyth	COSLA
Jonathan Sharma	COSLA
Fiona Hart	East Ayrshire H&SCP
Mike Liddle	Scottish Government
Julie Rintoul	Scottish Government Analyst
Susan Brodie	Scottish Government
Julie Slavin	West Dunbartonshire H&SCP
Annie Gunner Logan	Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland
Yvette Burgess	Director of Housing Support Enabling Unit
Patrick Welsh	West Lothian H&SCP
George Bowie	Angus H&SCP
Chris Creegan	Scottish Commission for Learning Disability
Jane Johnstone	Office of the Chief Social Work Advisor, Scottish Government
Karen Hedge	Scottish Care
Morag Johnston	CIPFA Directors of Finance.
Sharon Wearing	Glasgow City H&SCP
Dennis McLafferty	Social Work Scotland rep/North Lanarkshire HSCP
Deirdre Henderson	People-led Policy Panel (Adult Social Care Reform)

Finance Sub-Group Membership

David Fotheringham	Scottish Government
Garrick Smyth	COSLA
Jonathan Sharma	COSLA
Fiona Hart	East Ayrshire H&SCP
Mike Liddle	Scottish Government
Julie Rintoul	Scottish Government Analyst
Susan Brodie	Scottish Government
Patrick Welsh	West Lothian IJB
George Bowie	Angus H&SCP
Kenneth Leinster	South Ayrshire H&SCP/SWS
Morag Johnston	CIPFA Directors of Finance.
Sharon Wearing	Glasgow City H&SCP

Reform programme Leadership Alliance

Care Inspectorate
 Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland (CCPS)
 COSLA
 Healthcare Improvement Scotland
 National Carers Organisation
 Representative for Integration Joint Board Chief Officers
 Scotland Excel (centre of procurement expertise for the local government sector in Scotland)
 Scottish Care
 Scottish Government
 Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC)
 Social Work Scotland
 UNISON Scotland

