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

NHS Ayrshire & Arran

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

Fully supportive - the intention to involve clients and their family offering them choice about how they want their support is applauded.

2. What are your views on the principles proposed?

The options proposed in terms of how clients would be supported in making choices are clear and helpful.

However, consideration should be given to the cultural change which will be required to implement the principles, i.e. training for staff, services users, carers and the general public. The changes may also have a knock-on effect on other providers within the NHS and it is important that they are included in the change process.

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

The options are sensible and carefully crafted to ensure clients personal abilities can be maximised if they choose. For example, those with no mental impairment may choose Option 1 and take total control of the support they require making arrangements for their support and dealing with the payment. Other clients may find dealing with the arrangements for their support difficult, and Option 2 may suit them best, but maintains their involvement/decision-making. Options 3 and 4 may be required for less able/less confident clients.

4. Do you have any comment on the proposal that the self-directed support options should be made available to children and their families, together with the proposal that the degree of control a child may have over the process should vary with age?

Fully supportive of this proposal.

5. Are you satisfied with the provisions relating to the provision of information and advice, together with those concerning the support that should be offered to those who may have difficulty in making an informed decision?

The need to provide information and advice is clear, however, further information may be required in relation to evidencing that those
responsible for giving the advice/information have provided clarity to those less able clients.

6. **Are you satisfied that the method of modernising direct payments in the Bill will result in the change that the Government seeks?**

Satisfied that it will demonstrate collaboration, involvement and the options of choices for those who require support of Local Authorities.

7. **Do you have any views on the provisions relating to adult carers?**

The approach described is clear and sensible.

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?**

Some clear commitment may be required to ensure Local Authorities have some power to ensure that the client will be supported in their choice of “adult Supporter”, however, there is provision made to meet the requirements of protection of vulnerable adults/children.

9. **Do you have any views on the assumptions and calculations contained in the Financial Memorandum?**

No views.

10. **Are you satisfied in the assessments that have taken place in regard to these matters and in the conclusions reached by the Scottish Government?**

Yes.

11. **Do you have any comments on any other provisions contained in the Bill that you wish to raise with the Committee?**

No.

NHS Ayrshire & Arran
23 April 2012