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

Glasgow City Council Social Work Services

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

Glasgow City Council (GCC) fully supports the development of this Bill and the principle of empowerment for service users, which underlies it. In addition, it supports the shift from the earlier consultation to make offering choice, as per the four options, the default position for local authorities rather than direct payments.

2. What are your views on the principles proposed?

The principles of involvement and collaboration promote and reinforce best social work practice through the promotion of citizenship, informed choice and give service users greater control over their own lives and the support that they need.

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

GCC is in broad agreement with the options. The rewording and re-ordering of the four options from the earlier consultation draft provide greater clarity.

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?

GCC supports these proposals. The proposals will bring SDS legislation/guidance into line with the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.

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?

GCC would wish to re-iterate its comments made at the earlier consultation that there should be a legislative requirement for local authorities to sign post service users to advocacy services as per mental health legislation.

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

GCC would wish to add that service users should always be advised of the individual cost of their support, regardless of the chosen method of service arrangement and delivery, to assist them to make informed choice. The provision of this information to service users would contribute more towards the change that the government seeks.

7. Do you have any views on the provisions relating to adult carers?
It is appropriate that when carers are being offered services they receive the same choices as service users as to how they organise and receive it.

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?

It is appropriate that local authorities have the flexibility to make exceptions for the employment of close relatives where there is no other appropriate alternative.

The Scottish Government should publish guidance, to accompany the forthcoming SDS legislation, on good employment practice for individuals organising their own support.

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

The implementation of SDS for carers could entail significant recurring costs for local authorities. For further comments please refer to attached response and refer to GCC previous submission in response to earlier consultation.

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?

See above

Other matters

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

None

Glasgow City Council
24 April 2012