Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Bill
Shetland Islands Council and NHS Shetland

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

Yes the introduction of the Bill and its provisions are generally supported.

2. What are your views on the principles proposed?

Section 1 of the Bill outlines its general principles which are, ‘involvement’, ‘informed choice’ and ‘collaboration’. These principles are absolutely supported. These principles are ones that we would advocate strongly, that we endorse within our day to day work with the individuals and communities we support.

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

The four options for self-directed support are already available to those being assessed as requiring community care services and support. Direct Payment uptake is steadily growing and via our With You, For You assessment process, which allows individuals to self assess, from the assessment if eligible then they can directly approach a service provision. We also have examples of mixed support packages. So the options available for individuals to direct their own support, currently pose no immediate problem to us here in Shetland.

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?

We would in general, support the provision of self-directed support to children and their families and currently have such provision, an example being a direct payment so that the child & their family can direct their own respite provision.

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?

Yes – we already work with the voluntary sector in helping us achieve a variety of methods in ensuring advice is available. It would be difficult to expand and be more prescriptive in this area of the Bill as information giving needs to be given in a very person centred manner, so tailored to the individual in order to maximise their ability to make informed choices and direct their own support.

6. Are you satisfied that the method for modernising direct payments in the Bill will result in the change that the Government seeks?
The specific focus around this question leads us to look at the fact that within the Bill there are numerous areas that are identified where the Government may make future provision around Direct Payments etc. Given this is such a significant change in how we are providing services etc, it would appear to make absolute common sense to have such provision made with this Bill.

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

No this is absolutely in line as provision to the cared for person. There are many examples where it is better in terms of supporting family life etc, where providing for the carer is preferable than providing direct to the individual requiring support.

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?

This is obviously a much debated issue, both locally and nationally. This must be without doubt one of the biggest areas of concern. However these debates go on based on a certain amount of speculation and obvious fear for those who we support, who without question are the most vulnerable in our communities. However it would contravene the ethos of the Bill, if in some areas of SDS we became prescriptive. This comes back to making sure that people have the right and correct, information, support and advice, on an ongoing basis, not just at ‘set up’ stage. However it is an area that is identified in the Bill under section 13 (2.i.)(2.j.), where future provision could be made if necessary.

Shetland Islands Council and NHS Shetland
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