Health (Tobacco, Nicotine etc. and Care) (Scotland) Bill

Stage 2 Amendment on the provision of voice equipment: Call for Views

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

NHSGGC welcomes the proposed amendment and recognises the need for legislation to ensure equity in relation to communication support. The amendment is in line with current NHSGGC policies and the Board's Equality Scheme.

NHSGGC would wish to highlight that the multi disciplinary approach established in line with A Right to Speak should be highlighted with the expectation of continued support from relevant partners in line with current arrangements (HSCPs/Education /Communication Partners etc) including continuation of shared funding arrangements where they are in place.

It should be recognised that it is difficult to quantify the existing unmet need for communication support, and additional awareness and expectations accompanying the proposed amendment will along with increasing demand for provision from older people, in keeping with demographic trends are likely to result in additional financial implications for the NHS as the principle providers of equipment.

It would be useful if accompanying guidance notes were supportive in:

- clarifying the scope of the AAC equipment covered
- determining arrangements/ expectations for the maintenance of the AAC equipment
- establishing local registers (where not currently in place) outlining patient requirements, equipment provided, maintenance and support required by staff and other communication partners.
- ensuring the routine collection of data to support longer term planning both locally and nationally to support adoption of consistent approaches and provision across Scotland.

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