SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Communities

Pauline McNeill (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what steps it can take to encourage alternative finance provision, including the promotion of community development finance initiatives, credit unions and peer-to-peer lending, for low income consumers.

(S5W-02254)

Angela Constance: The Scottish Government is keen to encourage alternative finance provision, with a range of models designed to suit the circumstances of individuals as part of our wider approach to tackling financial exclusion and creating a fairer Scotland.

We welcome the work of others in this area, including the Carnegie UK Trust which published ‘Gateway to Affordable Credit – The Report of the Affordable Credit Action Group’ earlier in 2016. The report examined the challenges faced by Scotland’s credit unions and Community Development Finance Institutions (CDFIs) and set out recommendations to help grow not-for-profit alternative finance providers.

We have also supported credit unions in recognition of their role in tackling financial exclusion; and in providing financial services and products to a wide range of customers. The report of the Credit Union Working Group “Scotland’s Credit Unions: Investing in Our Future” was published on 10 February 2016 (http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00493888.pdf). One of the recommendations related to increasing the number of sustainable, junior savers schemes in partnership with schools across Scotland. I recently announced how a £300,000 fund to support Junior Savers Schemes will be disbursed in 2016-17.

There are already three CDFIs in Scotland: DSL Finance; Social Investment Scotland; and Scotcash, and discussions have taken place with the Community Development Finance Association to consider how the CDFI model might be developed here.

Lastly, Accountant in Bankruptcy operates a Scottish Financial Health Service website (https://www.scotlandsfinancialhealthservice.gov.uk/). This contains links to a range of organisations who offer information and advice on debt, managing money, housing, homelessness and ethical lending.

Enterprise and Environment

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how it plans to secure a fair share of the red meat levy.

(S5W-02202)

Fergus Ewing: After taking up my position of Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy I wrote to the Defra Minister of State, George Eustice in June 2016 asking if he agreed in principle to the repatriation of the levy. I also confirmed that I was in favour of moving ahead with the Levy Body Forum proposal, and urged that we should now move forward rapidly with a legislative measure that gives full effect to the Forum's solution to this long standing issue, in particular to identify a primary legislative vehicle which can achieve the repatriation. Mr Eustice recently replied to this letter and we are to meet to discuss this along with other important areas of work.

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what communications it has had with the UK Government relating to releasing CAP convergence funds to Scottish farmers.

(S5W-02204)

Fergus Ewing: I raised the issue of releasing CAP convergence funds to Scottish farmers in a letter to the Secretary of State for Scotland, David Mundell, on 24 June 2016.
Despite this, and assurances earlier this year from Defra Minister, George Eustice, that Defra would carry out a review of how the UK CAP budget is distributed, there has been no reply to my letter so far.

Ash Denham (Edinburgh Eastern) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what the economic impact is of the Edinburgh festivals.

(S5W-02627)

Fiona Hyslop: I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

Health and Social Care

Alexander Burnett (Aberdeenshire West) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government for what reason The Scottish Stroke Improvement Programme 2016 Report records that 22 out of 29 hospitals did not achieve the 90% stroke unit standard, and what action it is taking to (a) address this and (b) improve equality in access to care across all NHS boards.

(S5W-02000)

Shona Robison: The Scottish Government's Stroke Improvement Plan (2014) sets out actions and priorities which aim to improve the experience and clinical outcomes for patients living with stroke across Scotland by supporting the community to adopt a seamless approach to the delivery of care across the recognised pathway for stroke for all patients regardless of where they live or are treated in Scotland.

The Scottish Stroke Improvement Plan Lead and Scottish Stroke Care Audit (SSCA) National Clinical Coordinator continue to work closely with each Health board’s stroke Managed Clinical Network (MCN) to ensure that the key priorities from the Stroke Improvement Plan and the Scottish Stroke Care Standards are implemented and monitored. This involves supporting the MCN in taking forward improvements through coaching and developing mechanisms for improving local services. The Improvement Plan Lead and SSCA Coordinator visit all Health boards at least once per year facilitating a formal Health board Annual Review Meeting to assess performance, discuss where standards are not being met and formulate an improvement plan with clearly identified actions where necessary. Data is reviewed six monthly and where necessary, a walkthrough of the patient pathway is conducted to identify areas where improvements in care can be made.

Alexander Burnett (Aberdeenshire West) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government for what reason the Scottish Stroke Care Audit was renamed as the Scottish Stroke Improvement Programme.

(S5W-02002)

Shona Robison: The Scottish Stroke Care Audit (SSCA) is managed by Information and Statistics Division (ISD) Scotland under that name. The Scottish Stroke Care Audit Annual Report was renamed as the Scottish Stroke Improvement Programme Report to reflect the inclusion of reporting on the quality improvement priorities in the Stroke Improvement Plan (2014) in addition to the stroke data measured against the Scottish Stroke Standards. Reporting on the actions in the Stroke Improvement Plan are closely monitored by the National Advisory Committee for Stroke.

Alexander Burnett (Aberdeenshire West) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of other countries doing so, for what reason Scotland does not audit longer-term rehabilitation in stroke care.

(S5W-02003)

Shona Robison: The Scottish Stroke Improvement Programme report published on 12 July contains data collected on stroke rehabilitation. From November 2015 to January 2016 a rehabilitation sprint audit was conducted in all acute and integrated stroke units and is again a focus for the Scottish Stroke Care Audit in 2016. The Stroke Improvement Plan, published in 2014 contains priorities on services focussed on transition to the community as well as supported self-management and living with stroke. Progress on the status of each NHS Board in relation to the priorities and actions in the improvement plan is closely monitored by the National Advisory Committee for Stroke.
Richard Lochhead (Moray) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what investment it has made in sports facilities in each of the last five years, also broken down by local authority.

Aileen Campbell: I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

(S5W-02186)

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what the running costs are each year of the NHSScotland confidential alert line.

Shona Robison: The running costs for the NHS Scotland Confidential Alert Line (NCAL) pilot (2 April 2013 to 31 July 2014) were £18,666. The running costs for the period 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2016 were £31,600.

Public Concern at Work, the charity that provides the NCAL service were awarded £120,660 in total from 2 April 2013 to 31 July 2016 to cover a range of services including whistleblowing training for NHS Scotland staff, reporting, communication and running costs of the NCAL.

(S5W-02188)

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what the budget line for sport was in (a) 2013-14 and (b) 2014-15, also broken down by spend area.

Aileen Campbell: I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

(S5W-02189)

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what (a) revenue and (b) capital grants sportscotland has received in each year since 2013.

Aileen Campbell: I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

(S5W-02190)

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what the sport and legacy budget line is for (a) 2015-16 and (b) 2016-17, also broken down by spend area.

Aileen Campbell: I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

(S5W-02191)

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many people are employed (a) full-time and (b) part-time by NHS as (i) audiologists, (ii) cardiac physiologists, (iii) gastro-intestinal physiologists, (iv) neurophysiologists, (v) respiratory physiologists and (vi) sleep physiologists.

Shona Robison: Information on the Healthcare Science clinical group, which these staff work within, is not held by ISD Scotland at this level of detail. However, the latest published ISD Scotland statistics show that the total number of full-time Healthcare Science staff has increased by 3.6 per cent under this Government, to 4,428.0 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE).

The total number of part-time Healthcare Science staff has increased by 16.3 per cent under this Government, to 1,019.5 WTE.

Further information on the latest published Healthcare Science staff in post figures can be found in the data tables of the Workforce Statistics website at: https://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Workforce/Publications/2016-09-06/HCS_Staff_J2016.xls

(S5W-02200)
Oliver Mundell (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the briefing, Dying Doesn’t Work 9-5, by Sue Ryder, which states that there is a lack of out-of-hours emotional, practical and coordinated support for people who are dying and their families.

(S5W-02476)

Shona Robison: The National Out-of-Hours Review Report, Pulling together, was published in November 2015. As part of the implementation of the Review, we are currently considering bids from Health and Social Care Partnerships that explore all aspects of the Review’s recommendations.

We expect NHS boards and Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCPs) to use the recommendations in the Review to inform local planning. However, since the integration of health and social care in April 2016, it is the responsibility of HSCPs to coordinate health and care services, commissioning NHS boards and councils to deliver services in line with a local strategic plan to meet the needs of its population. Over time, this will lead to a change in how services are provided with a greater emphasis on preventative services and allowing people to receive care and support in their home or local community rather than being admitted to hospital.

Additionally, our Strategic Framework for Action on Palliative and End of Life Care (SFA), which was published in December 2015, sets out our vision that by 2021 everyone who needs palliative and end of life care will have access to it. The SFA was informed by the recommendations in the Review and sets out a series of commitments to realise that ambition including supporting Healthcare Improvement Scotland in providing HSCPs with expertise on testing and implementing improvements in the identification and care co-ordination of those who can benefit from palliative and end of life care.

Oliver Mundell (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what progress it has made regarding the recommendations in the Report of the National Review of Primary Care Out of Hours Services on (a) people at the end of life and their carers accessing care and assistance by local helpline on a 24/7 basis and (b) palliative care patients and carers having extended access to responsive and timely community nursing support.

(S5W-02477)

Shona Robison: The National Out-of-Hours Review Report, Pulling together, was published in November 2015. As part of the implementation of the Review, we are currently considering bids from Health and Social Care Partnerships that explore all aspects of the Review’s recommendations including palliative care.

Sir Lewis Ritchie will be undertaking a further national engagement programme, building on the initial engagement programme to all board areas in Scotland, carried out as part of the original Primary Care Out of Hours Review process where he will discuss these bids in more detail.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the potential impact on adult cleft lip and palate surgery at St John’s Hospital in Livingston if cleft surgery is centralised.

Holding answer issued: 23 September 2016

(S5W-02523)

Shona Robison: All specialist cleft surgery - for both adults and children, to repair cleft lip and palate should be carried out by one of three specialist cleft surgeons, based in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Should the recommendation to consolidate cleft surgery in Glasgow be supported, this arrangement will continue. Patients will continue to be assessed by the national specialist cleft surgery service. Those who do not require a specialist cleft surgery intervention, will continue to be managed locally, including at St John’s Hospital in West Lothian.

A decision whether to approve the recommendation will be made in due course.
Gordon Lindhurst (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what funding it makes available to charities seeking to offer respite care to children with long-term, often terminal illnesses and their families.

(S5W-02618)

Shona Robison: Scottish Government provides funding to the Children’s Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS) through the Children, Young People and Families Early Intervention and Adult Learning and Empowering Communities Fund. In 2016-17 CHAS has been awarded £136,300.

Between 2010 and 2016 the Scottish Government invested over £17 million towards the voluntary-run Short Breaks Fund. A further £3 million is committed in 2016-17. This fund includes the Better Breaks and Take a Break programmes, providing responsive and creative short break opportunities and personalised leisure activities for disabled children, young people and their families.

Gordon Lindhurst (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what information it has regarding how many current and former prisoners have smoke-related illnesses, and how this compares with the rest of the general population.

(S5W-02620)

Shona Robison: Information about smoking illness among prisoners and former prisoners is not held centrally so cannot be compared to illness rates in the rest of the general population. Smoking rates are however significantly higher amongst prisoners (72%) compared to the general population (22%) and the consequence of this will be higher rates of smoking related disease in prisoners and former prisoners.

In line with the Scottish Government’s Tobacco Control Strategy for Scotland, the Scottish Prison Service are working in partnership with government colleagues and local NHS boards to develop plans for indoor smoke-free prison facilities. The Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Michael Matheson, has accepted the recommendations of the National Tobacco Strategy Work stream that all Scottish prisons should be smoke-free within a timescale of up to five years.

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how much funding the Centre for Integrative Care at Gartnavel has received each year since 2011.

(S5W-02622)

Shona Robison: This information is not centrally held.

It is the role of the Scottish Government to provide policies, frameworks and resources to NHS boards so they can deliver services that meet the needs of their local populations. Within this context, it is a matter for NHS boards to plan, budget for and deliver the services required to meet the assessed needs of their resident populations.

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will review the feedback from the consultation on the future of the Centre for Integrative Care at Gartnavel.

(S5W-02623)

Shona Robison: These are matters for NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, who are responsible for planning and delivering services to meet the assessed needs of their resident population.

All NHS boards must adhere to national guidance (CEL (2010) 4) which can be accessed at: http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/mels/CEL2010_04.pdf. This guidance details expectations around appropriate public engagement in potential service change.

Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionists Party): To ask the Scottish Government how much it has invested in shinty in each year since 2007, and how much it plans to invest in each of the next five years.
Aileen Campbell: Sport Scotland, the national agency for sport, invests both Scottish Government and National Lottery monies into Scottish governing bodies of sport. The Camanachd Association (CA) is the governing body for the sport in Scotland and is responsible for the promotion of its activities.

Between 2007 and 2015 sportscotland invested £991,770 in the Camanachd Association. sportscotland’s investment into the governing body for the 2015-18 investment cycle is up to £546,000. Investment beyond 2017-18 has not yet been confirmed.

2007-2008 £107,145
2008-2009 £110,000
2009-2010 £150,000
2010-2011 £140,000
2011-2012 £145,000
2012-2013 £146,500
2013-2015* £193,125
2015-2016 £182,000
2016-2017 £182,000
2017-2018 £182,000

*15 month investment due to sportscotland investment realignment

Mark Griffin (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what information it has on how many households in Scotland receive healthy start vouchers each year.

Aileen Campbell: In 2015-16 just over 24,000 households in Scotland received Healthy Start vouchers.

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government which local authorities have implemented the Unison Ethical Care Charter.

Aileen Campbell: The Scottish Government does not hold information on which local authorities have implemented the Unison Ethical Care Charter.

We are providing significant investment to enable local authorities to commission care services that pay care workers, including in the independent and third sector, the full Living Wage of £8.25 per hour from 1 October 2016, along with other fair work practices, as called for in the Unison Ethical Care Charter.

We are working with local authorities, providers and other partners to deliver a major programme of reform to adult social care. This will enable progress towards our aim to end “time and task” based care and shift to care that focuses on outcomes.

Learning and Justice

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government when it will publish the review of the role of the Scottish Funding Council.

Shirley-Anne Somerville: The current review of enterprise and skills is considering the support offered by our enterprise and skills agencies, including the Scottish Funding Council, with a view to ensuring that they provide the joined-up support that young people, universities, colleges, training providers, businesses and the workforce need. The review will report shortly.

Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how many families have been eligible for free childcare in each year since 2010-11, broken down by local authority.
Mark McDonald: Between August 2007 and July 2014 all three and four year olds were entitled to 475 hours a year of funded early learning and childcare. This increased to 600 hours a year in August 2014 through the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 (the Act).

In 2012, local authorities were provided with £4.5 million over three years to provide early learning and childcare to looked after two year olds on a non-statutory basis. In 2014 the Act made 600 hours funded early learning and childcare a statutory entitlement for 2 year olds who are looked after, or under a Kinship Care or Guardianship Order, along with two year olds with a parent in receipt of out of work benefits. In 2015 this was extended further to those two year olds who meet the free school lunch criteria.

The following table sets out the estimated number of eligible children (excluding deferrals) by local authority. It is important to note that these figures are not the same as the early learning and childcare census as published in the Summary Statistics for Schools in Scotland. This is because the figures below state the number of eligible children over the course of the whole year, i.e. at term 3, whereas the census records those children registered; and, only at term 1.

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<th>Estimated Eligible children by LA (3 + 4s, 2s from 2012)</th>
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Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many people it will provide assistance to following the devolution of powers regarding employment support in spring 2017.

Holding answer issued: 23 September 2016 (S5W-02567)

Jamie Hepburn: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-02375 on 8 September 2016. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament’s website, the search facility for which can be found at: http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx

Gordon Lindhurst (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it has considered appeals made to it by the Friends of the Museum of Fire in Edinburgh to retain the museum in the former Central Fire Station at Lauriston Place in Edinburgh.

Annabelle Ewing: Yes. The Scottish Government has been mindful of the appeals made by the Friends of the Museum of Fire in Edinburgh, and recognises the importance of Scotland’s firefighting history, and the role of the Museum in telling this story. The location of the Museum is a matter for the Board of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

SFRS has committed to retain the Museum of Fire within the City of Edinburgh and will be announcing its new location soon.

Richard Leonard (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government by what date Skills Development Scotland will publish its regional (a) skills assessments and (b) outcome agreements.


SDS does not publish outcome agreements but do provide information, including Regional Skills Assessments, that inform outcome agreements developed with the Scottish Funding Council.

Richard Leonard (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will publish details of what assessment it has carried out of skills (a) shortages and (b) underuse.

Jamie Hepburn: The UKCES Employer Skills Survey covers skill shortages and underuse. The Scottish Government is a partner to this research. The survey results were published in January 2016 and the latest results for Scotland are available here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukces-employer-skills-survey-2015-scotland-toolkit

Scottish Government also commission Skills Development Scotland to undertake further Regional Skills Assessments, using information from the UKCES Employer Skills Survey.

Daniel Johnson (Edinburgh Southern) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how much it will provide in (a) real and (b) cash terms each year toward the provision of the additional 20,000 qualified early learning and childcare workers by 2020 referred to in the Programme for Government.

Mark McDonald: Ahead of any recruitment campaign, the Scottish Government is currently working with delivery partners to explore all existing routes to recruit a high quality and diverse early learning and childcare workforce. A Skills Investment Plan is being developed and research is currently being conducted with target audiences. This work will inform the cost and scope of the recruitment campaign. We will start to target our marketing activity from spring 2017.
Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government who will lead the review of student support in Scotland, what the terms of reference will be, and when it will (a) start and (b) report.

(S5W-02766)

Shirley-Anne Somerville: As announced in the 2016 Programme for Government, the review of student support will begin in October 2016 and will report by autumn 2017. Arrangements for conducting the review are being finalised and all key stakeholders will be involved.

A finalised terms of reference will be agreed by the stakeholder group leading this work.

Daniel Johnson (Edinburgh Southern) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many additional qualified teachers or childcare graduates it expects to be in place in nurseries in the most deprived areas by 2018.

(S5W-02767)

Mark McDonald: The Scottish Government is currently working with partners to identify target nurseries for the rollout of the additional graduate or teacher commitment from 2018. This is drawing on new SIMD data published on 31 August 2016 and locally held information, to ensure that the highest possible number of the most disadvantaged young children can benefit from an additional graduate or teacher. We will set out more information autumn 2016.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what level of funding it will provide for the introduction of standardised assessments for (a) primary and (b) secondary schools in (i) real and (ii) cash terms in each year of the current parliamentary session.

(S5W-02768)

John Swinney: The Scottish Government will meet the full costs of the contract for the new standardised assessments for P1, P4, P7 and S3. Exact costs will depend on who is selected through the procurement exercise currently underway.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what level of funding will be provided to the Developing the Young Workforce programme in (a) real and (b) cash terms in each year of the current parliamentary session.

(S5W-02774)

Jamie Hepburn: Developing the Young Workforce, Scotland’s Youth Employment Strategy, published in December 2014, included a commitment to a two year early implementation budget to allow partners to build capacity and test out new approaches in the development phase of the programme. That budget came to an end, as planned, in financial year 2015-16.

The Scottish Government continues to fund DYW implementation through a range of core budgets including those of Skills Development Scotland and Scottish Funding Council. This is in line with Sir Ian Wood’s Commission’s view which advised funding Developing the Young Workforce activity from mainstream budgets. As with all budgets, these will be set in the context of the draft Scottish budget for 2017-18.

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the report Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, and what plans it has to implement its recommendations.

(S5W-02918)

Mark McDonald: The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child published its Concluding Observations on the fifth periodic report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 9 June 2016. The Scottish Government is considering carefully the full range of conclusions and
recommendations raised by the Committee and will engage with relevant stakeholders shortly on next steps.

Actions following from the Concluding Observation will be taken forward in line with Ministers’ specific responsibilities in relation to children’s rights under Part 1 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

The following questions received holding answers:

SSW-02186
SSW-02189
SSW-02190
SSW-02191
SSW-02627