EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

DRAFT BUDGET SCRUTINY 2020-21

SUBMISSION FROM CROSSREACH

- What are the key public policy areas where individuals and protected groups are struggling to access their rights?

Accessing funding under Self Directed Support legislation.

- Which groups of people are most likely to be affected and why?
  People with a learning disability and those with mental ill health who have no family members advocating for them; the default position being adopted by local authorities is that they will continue as before rather than making the necessary shift to promotion of SDS.

- What type of public sector funding (European, national or local) is provided to your organisation to support vulnerable groups and those with protected characteristics to access public services?

Local authority and NHS-derived funding of support under Framework agreements won by tender and some grant funding direct.

- Is the level of public sector funding provided enough to deliver national priorities and better outcomes for people and communities, please provide evidence?

  No. It has reduced, in real terms, over the last 10 years as a result of tendering.

  Despite Scottish Government making funds available to IJBs to fully fund the Scottish Living Wage, this does not happen automatically. Much work has to be undertaken by the provider to justify the increase and, in some cases, payment is less than sought and up to two years late in being on.

  Evidence lies in the number of contracts being “handed back” to statutory sector bodies and the diminution in provision by third sector. Refer to CCPS data.

- Are there public funding challenges for the third sector; if so what would be the implications for delivering equalities and human rights outcomes?

  See above. Human Rights outcomes are diminished as the choice of provision and its quality is increasingly being limited and the minimum standard is only now available. Waiting times have increased and those with need for say, residential care, are languishing in hospitals for lack of community-based care/support.
What changes could be made to improve accountability for national priorities being delivered by the public sector in partnership with the third sector?

Scottish Government treating the third sector as a genuine partner of equal importance in the field; evidence of this NOT being the case lies in the difference in funding that local authorities afford their own in-house provision compared to what charities receive; while this is understood to be a deliberate strategy, some honesty about the fact would go some way to building trust in partnerships.