

PE1480/Z

Scottish Government submission of 7 December 2017

- What conditions, in addition to dementia, will be covered under the proposal to extend free personal care to people under 65?

The Scottish Government previously introduced Free Personal Care for those over the age of 65 who were assessed as needing it, and this will now be extended to those under 65. Our commitment to extend free personal care means that those adults with any long term condition, or those who develop dementia or other degenerative conditions under the age of 65, who are assessed as needing it will receive free personal care. This will include ensuring that those diagnosed with a terminal illness receive the personal care they are assessed as requiring for free.

- Whether other services used by people with dementia and other long term conditions, such as day services, will be included given they are not captured by the current definition of free personal care?

Nearly 78,000 people over 65 in Scotland currently benefit from Free Personal Care, and our commitment means that this support will be extended to all those under 65, assessed as needing it, regardless of condition. This means that those adults under the age of 65 assessed as needing it will be entitled to receive free personal care in the same way as older people are.

The provision of free personal care to those aged either under or over the age of 65 will therefore continue to be subject to Schedule 1 of the Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 2002. The definition of personal care can be found in paragraph 20 of schedule 12 to the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010, which sets out that “personal care” means care which relates to the day to day physical tasks and needs of the person cared for (as for example, but without prejudice to that generality, to eating and washing) and to mental processes related to those tasks and needs (as for example, but without prejudice to that generality, to remembering to eat and wash); and “personal support” means counselling, or other help, provided as part of a planned programme of care.

Guidance on the definition of personal care is published on the Scottish Government website.