

## **SIAA Response**

### **A Consultation on a Proposal for a Bill to Abolish Charges for Non-Residential Social Care**

- 1) Do you support the principle that non-residential social care services should be available free at the point of delivery to those who have been assessed by a relevant professional as requiring them (as is the case within health care)?**

The SIAA believe all social care should be free to everyone who needs it in Scotland.

- 2) Do you agree that legislation is a necessary and appropriate means of addressing the issues identified?**

The SIAA believes that legislation will help address issues around different practices amongst Local Authorities. Legislation will give people a legal right which they will be able to challenge if it is not available.

**The current system has resulted in varying charges in different areas for the same level and quality of service. Do you agree that there should be consistency across Scotland? What do you think the advantages and disadvantages would be?**

The differences in service provision and the quality of service do vary across Scotland and we believe that this issue should be addressed. The result of removing all charges would mean that social care was equitable across Scotland, however we would be concerned if the criteria for accessing free social care was tightened and therefore limited.

- 3) Should all social care related services be free at the point of delivery? If you answered Yes, please explain your reasons. If you answered No, please explain which services should be**

**excluded, and why. (Please refer to the services set out on page 7)**

We are not sure if all social care services should be free.

**4) What are the likely financial implications (if any) of any proposed Bill to you or your organisation? What (if any) other significant financial implications are likely to arise?**

We know there will potentially be many budgetary implications for LA but not for our organisation directly.

**5) What do you think the implications of the proposed Bill are for equality? (Positive/Negative/No significant implications/Undecided). Please explain your answer. If you answered Negative, please suggest any ways this impact could be minimised or avoided.**

We are unsure about the equality implications of this proposed bill, we know that disabled people and people with long term conditions experience inequality and discrimination everyday. Therefore it is imperative that a thorough impact assessment is carried out that fully involved the people who will be impacted by the proposed bill.

**6) Are there any other comments you would wish to make that are relevant to this proposal?**

N/A

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The Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance (SIAA) is Scotland's national membership body for advocacy organisations. The SIAA promotes, supports and defends independent advocacy in Scotland. It aims to ensure that independent advocacy is available to any person who needs it in Scotland.

SIAA is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation Charity number SC033576 –

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