

SIAA Response

Frank's Law – Free Personal Care for Under 65s

September 2017

1. **Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposal to remove the age-limit that currently restricts the right to free personal care to those aged 65 or over**
Partially supportive
2. **What do you think would be the main advantages, if any, of the proposal?**
The Bill has the potential to ensure that health and social care is accessible to anyone regardless of their age, thus contributing to closing the inequality gap
3. **What do you think would be the main disadvantages, if any, of the proposal?**
We think that the proposal needs to be broader, ensuring that all disabled people receive social care for the provision of free personal care to under 65s will still leave many disabled people facing significant charges to receive the social care they need for independent living. We support the points raised by Inclusion Scotland.
4. **Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:**
 - a) **The Scottish Government and local authorities**
Unsure
 - b) **Businesses (including those providing care services)**
Unsure
 - c) **Individuals (including those receiving care and their families)**
Unsure
5. **Are there ways in which the Bill could achieve its aim more cost-effectively (e.g. by reducing costs or increasing savings)?**
Unsure
6. **What overall impact is the proposed Bill likely to have for the following protected groups (under the Equality Act): race, disability, sex, gender re-assignment, age, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity?**
Unsure

7. In what ways could any negative impact of the Bill on equality be minimised or avoided?

Negative impact on equality could be minimised or avoided by broadening the remit of the Bill and covering all people with social care costs. Charging for social care is not in line with a human rights based approach and as Inclusion Scotland have already stated, it is not consistent with Article 19 on the UNCRPD on the right to independent living.

8. Do you consider that the proposed bill can be delivered sustainably, i.e. without having likely future disproportionate economic, social and/or environmental impacts?

Unsure

9. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposal?

We believe that any person applying for or receiving health and social care packages should have the right to Independent Advocacy. We support the view of the Health and Social Care Alliance that Independent Living is critical to enabling people to contribute as citizens, creating an inclusive and equal society and that in order to support people to do so, we need to remove any financial barriers.

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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