

# Manifesto Briefing

Our voices ■ Our choices

## 3 Social Care should support disabled people's participation in all aspects of Scottish society

### The Problem:

- Raising of eligibility criteria, restricting social care support to 'life and limb' cover
- Care assessments governed more by budgetary considerations than the outcomes disabled people want to achieve.
- Care charges rising far faster than the rate of inflation.

### Our Solutions:

- An end to social care charges
- The establishment of an independent Commission to examine the role and funding of social care
- New regulations on the portability of care packages, to ensure that disabled people can choose where they want to live.

### Key Facts:

Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People (UNCRPD) establishes that disabled people have a fundamental right to independent living and inclusion in the community, including access to a range of in-home, residential and other community support services.

- <http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml>

Scotland spends £2.908bn a year on adult social care.

- Expenditure on Adult Social Care Services, Scotland, 2003-04 to 2013-14 <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/03/5885>

Over the last 4 years Social Care charges levied by Scottish Local Authorities have risen by an average of 20%.

- Scotland Against the Care Tax analysis of Scottish Local Government Finance Returns. <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/02/1326>

Care Charges raise an estimated £45m a year from disabled people, but can be as much as 100% of a disabled person's disposable income.

- Scottish Government estimate, January 2016.

Disabled people have defined Independent Living as: “Disabled people of all ages having the same freedom, choice, dignity and control as other citizens at home, at work and in the community. It does not mean living by yourself or fending for yourself. It means rights to practical assistance and support to participate in society and live an ordinary life”.

Social Care is an investment that provides the essential support that can enable disabled people to participate in family, community and economic life. Without such support, disabled people and other social care users cannot enjoy their human rights on an equal basis to non-disabled people.

Inclusion Scotland has frequently highlighted the crisis in social care which has seen the focus moved to meeting only critical and substantial (i.e. life and limb) need. It can mean disabled people effectively being prisoners in their own homes – dressed, washed, fed and toileted but unable to go out to meet friends or family to take part in social activities.

Well-intended principles of choice, control and dignity that underpin health and social care integration and self-directed support are being undermined by cuts to social care packages.

Disabled people have consistently told Inclusion Scotland that charging for social care is akin to charging for Health services. Charging for support equates to asking some people (who require social care) to pay more money than anyone else to achieve the same basic human rights and to participate in their communities. Disabled people are being forced into poverty as charges for social care rise.

Disabled people who receive social care services and need to move home from one local authority to another cannot easily do so. It means being reassessed and risks the loss of support. As a result many avoid moving. Disabled people believe this is profoundly unfair. We believe new regulations are needed to ensure that it's possible to move a support package between local authorities without losing essential support.

Disabled people request that an independent, Social Care Commission is established which includes representatives from disabled people's organisations. The Commission would make recommendations on long term role and sustainable funding of social care. For more information on this or the issues raised in this briefing, please contact us:



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