

Manifesto Briefing

2 Recognise social care support as a fundamental basic right, with the same criteria wherever you live.

What disabled people's lived experience tells us:

- “I have gone from 20 hours of care to zero. I am now bedbound completely because of this.”
- “The plight of disabled people and unpaid carers has been largely ignored: the devastating cuts in social care; what happens to disabled children; the fact that nothing has really been done to support family carers who are doing far more. We feel abandoned – as if we don't matter.”
- “I receive Self-Directed Support Option 1 and I think this is the difference: I am paid directly and carried out all checks on my personal assistant myself. Local authorities cannot withdraw care and send my care staff elsewhere, e.g., care homes.”

What disabled people want:

- A National Social Care Support Service that recognises that social care support is a basic right and fundamental to participative citizenship, with a set of universal criteria coproduced with disabled people. Whether disabled people can have human rights should never be subject to local priorities.
- Cuts to social care support to be reversed and an end to all charges for social care support.
- The Independent Living Fund Scotland to be reopened to new claims.

Due to over ten years of austerity and a reliance on rationing of social care support to those with ever higher levels of need, there is significant unmet need for social care support in Scotland.

To receive the support needed to achieve their human rights, equal and independent living, people are charged for it by their local authorities. Care charges contribute just 3% (or approx. £42.6m) to the cost of social care support in Scotland, but this 3% can be as much as 100% of disabled people's income after basic housing costs.

There has been no consistency in the way Self Directed Support (SDS) has been implemented across Scotland. Due to ever tightening eligibility criteria, the fact that what people can do with their social care support, and how much they are charged for it can vary from authority to authority, huge problems can arise for people relocating from one area of Scotland to another.

People's fundamental human rights, equal citizenship and independent living should never be contingent on whether they are considered a 'local priority' or not.

Impact of Covid-19:

Almost half of people responding to Inclusion Scotland's covid-19 Surveyⁱ on this issue told us that said that the Covid-19 pandemic has had an impact on the social care support they get, formal and informal. Around 30% told us their support had either stopped completely or had been reduced.

Around 40% of people who responded to this question experienced challenges with caring for children/family members since the start of the pandemic.

Rights and Renewal:

A radical shake-up of social care support is needed in order to create a national social care support system that works for everyone. This system should enable those with social care support needs to access the resources and support they need, with genuine choice and control over who provides it and how they use it to live their lives, to achieve independent living, equal citizenship and fulfil their human rights.

This system should enable those with social care support needs to achieve independent living, equal citizenship, and fulfil their human rights. This includes accessing the resources and support they need, with genuine choice and control over who provides it and how they use it to live their lives.

Visit our website www.inclusionScotland.org/manifesto2021 to show your support for our manifesto. Easy Read, large print and BSL versions of the manifesto and separate briefings on each of the manifesto's Five Asks are available on our website.

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ⁱ <https://inclusionScotland.org/covid-19-evidence-survey/>



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