

Social Care and the Voluntary Sector in Scotland: Issues for Elected Members Summer 2007



Some Facts and Figures

The voluntary sector is the largest provider of registered social care services in Scotland, providing 38% of all services.¹

One quarter of all those working in the social care sector are employed by a voluntary organisation.² The voluntary sector is the fastest growing provider of social services; the percentage of staff employed by the voluntary sector has more than doubled in the last ten years.³

CCPS estimates that at least one third of all publicly funded social care services in Scotland are provided by the voluntary sector.

National policy documents such as *Transforming Public Services* endorse the voluntary sector's continuing and expanding role in the delivery of public services. Voluntary organisations' creativity, drive and sense of purpose make them powerful allies of local authorities in jointly meeting the challenges laid out in *Changing Lives* and other national policy documents.

The Big Issue

While the voluntary sector currently makes a huge contribution to the provision of social care, voluntary organisations are finding it increasingly difficult to participate fully in the design, development and delivery of services.

As reported recently in the national press, Scottish voluntary organisations across the board are subsidising public services by around £130m a year.⁴ In the field of social care, it is rare for voluntary organisations to recoup the full cost of providing a service from local authorities.

A survey of CCPS members found that 94% of organisations are running some or all of their services at a deficit, and that this has led to 89% of organisations discussing the financial viability of services at board level. In attempts to make services viable, organisations are considering redundancies or reducing the level of service provided; a small number of providers have handed back contracts. This situation cannot continue without it having a detrimental affect on the people who use services.⁵

About CCPS

Community Care Providers Scotland is the national association of voluntary sector organisations providing the full range of care and support services in Scotland.

CCPS represents its members on all issues of social care related policy, in particular regarding

- designing, commissioning and funding services
- social care regulation (Care Commission, SSSC etc)
- service quality
- workforce issues, including staff training.

CCPS has good working relationships with a number of individual council departments across the country, and deals with local authorities primarily through COSLA.

The other thing is...

Commissioning and contracting processes also impact on other aspects of social care.

- Service commissioning often focuses on the cost of services, rather than on personalising social care services, the outcomes services achieve for individuals, and Best Value, as *Changing Lives* suggests that it should.
- Voluntary organisations are not always able to have staff training costs incorporated into service contracts, even though Scotland operates a qualifications-based registration system for social care staff. As staff training and qualifications are such an important part of service delivery, they should be funded as part of the service price.⁵
- The expertise of voluntary organisations in the field of social care is not always recognised in the design and development of services. Voluntary organisations could be valuable partners for local authorities looking for new ways to provide services that meet the challenges of the future.

What elected members can do

- Make sure that you know how your council commissions social care services and funds voluntary organisations to provide them.
- In making complex budget decisions, consider the impact of decisions made on services provided by the voluntary sector, and on people who use those services.
- Encourage council colleagues to make use of the knowledge and expertise of voluntary sector care providers in local planning partnerships, including Community Planning Partnerships and Community Health Partnerships, and in forums established to plan and develop social care services.

Footnotes

- ¹ Excluding childminders. Care Commission, *The Quality of Care Services in Scotland*, 2007
- ² Scottish Social Services Council, *The Social Services Workforce: Funding for Training*, 2006
- ³ Scottish Executive, *Scotland's Social Services Labour Market 2nd Report of the National Workforce Group*, March 2006
- ⁴ Scottish Executive, *Report on costs and impacts of the implementation of the principle of Full Cost Recovery in the public sector contracts with the voluntary sector*, Feb 2007
- ⁵ CCPS survey reports on service funding and training requirements can be downloaded from www.ccpscotland.org or contact the CCPS office for hard copies.

This briefing has been prepared on behalf of CCPS members

Abbeyfield Society for Scotland; Aberlour Child Care Trust; The Action Group; Addaction Scotland; Alzheimer Scotland; Ark Housing Association Ltd; Barnardo's Scotland; Barony Housing Association; Bield Housing Association; Brothers of Charity Services (Scotland); Cairn Housing Association Ltd; Camphill Scotland; Capability Scotland; Carr-Gomm Scotland; Children 1st; Cornerstone Community Care; Crossreach; Crossroads Caring Scotland; Cube Housing Association Ltd; Edinburgh Home-Link Partnership; ELCAP; ENABLE; Garvald Centre Edinburgh; Glasgow Housing Association; Glasgow Simon Community; Gowrie Care Ltd; Hanover (Scotland) Housing Association; Health in Mind; Inspire; Key Housing Association; Kibble Education & Care Centre; Lanarkshire Association for Mental Health; Leonard Cheshire Scotland; LinkLiving Ltd; Loretto Housing Association; Mainstay Trust; Margaret Blackwood Housing Association; Momentum Care Services; Multiple Sclerosis Society Scotland; The Mungo Foundation; National Schizophrenia Fellowship; NCH Scotland; Options for Independence – BRCS; Penumbra; Places for People Scotland Care & Support; PSS Scotland; Quarriers; Queens Cross Housing Association; The Richmond Fellowship Scotland; Scottish Association for Mental Health; Scottish Society for Autism; Sense Scotland; SHARE Scotland; Stepping Stones for Families; TACT Scotland; Thistle Foundation; Trust Housing Association; Turning Point Scotland; Unity Enterprise Ltd; Visualise; VSA

Community Care Providers Scotland
9 Ellersly Road
Edinburgh
EH12 6HY

T 0131 337 3295
F 0131 347 1756
W www.ccpscotland.org
E kirsten.gooday@ccpscotland.org