

# Social Care and the Voluntary Sector in Scotland: Issues for Members of the Scottish Parliament 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.<sup>1</sup>

One quarter of all those working in the social care sector are employed by a voluntary organisation.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

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

Voluntary organisations have a key role to play in the development of services personalised to the needs of individuals, as highlighted in *Changing Lives*, the report of the 21st Century Review of Social Work. The importance of the voluntary sector in the provision of social care services was held up as a model for the sector's further involvement in the provision of public services in *Transforming Public Services*.

## The Big Issue

Despite the recognition of the high quality, invaluable services provided by voluntary organisations, the voluntary sector continues to face barriers to its full participation in the development and delivery of social care services.

As reported recently in the national press, Scottish voluntary organisations subsidise public services by around £130m a year.<sup>4</sup> In the field of social care, it is rare for voluntary organisations to recoup the full cost of providing a service from local authorities, on whose behalf they provide these public services.

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 89% of organisations to discuss 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.<sup>5</sup>

## 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.

For further information on the voluntary sector and social care, or to discuss voluntary sector care providers' views on any issues of interest, please contact Kirsten Gooday, Policy and Development Officer at CCPS.

## The other thing is...

Commissioning and contracting processes also affect other aspects of social care.

- Despite the commitment given in *Changing Lives* and by local authorities to personalising social care services, focussing on the outcomes services achieve for individuals, and upholding the principles of Best Value, service commissioning continues to focus on the cost of services, and efforts to drive this down as far as possible.
- Voluntary organisations are rarely able to have staff training costs incorporated into contracts with local authorities, 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, CCPS believes they should be funded as part of the service price.<sup>5</sup>
- The expertise of voluntary organisations in the field of social care is seldom recognised in the design and development of services. Voluntary organisations are keen to be involved as partners in all aspects of social care, not just service delivery, and could be valuable partners for local authorities and others looking for new ways to provide services that meet the challenges of the future.

## What parliament can do

- **Make community care services a priority for the parliament.** The direction in which we should be moving is laid out in *Changing Lives*, but it is vital that we now consider what changes are necessary to make this happen. In particular, CCPS asks MSPs to
  - support the move towards outcomes based commissioning rather than cost-driven commissioning; and
  - address the way in which voluntary sector services are funded.
- **Endorse the vital role of the voluntary sector in local and national planning** and ask the Executive to provide firm guidance for planning partnerships on how they might involve voluntary sector providers.
- **Consider the effect of future policies on voluntary sector social care providers**, with the support of CCPS briefings on key issues.

### Footnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Excluding childminders. Care Commission, *The Quality of Care Services in Scotland*, 2007
- <sup>2</sup> Scottish Social Services Council, *The Social Services Workforce: Funding for Training*, 2006
- <sup>3</sup> Scottish Executive, *Scotland's Social Services Labour Market 2nd Report of the National Workforce Group*, March 2006
- <sup>4</sup> 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
- <sup>5</sup> CCPS survey reports on service funding and training requirements can be downloaded from [www.ccpscotland.org](http://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

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