

COMMUNITY CARE PROVIDERS SCOTLAND
Briefing for Labour Party debate on the voluntary sector
Thursday 17 April 2008

Community Care Providers Scotland (CCPS) is the national association for voluntary organisations providing care and support services across Scotland. CCPS represents over 60 of the most significant national providers, who between them provided around £700 million worth of publicly funded services in 2006/07, primarily under contract to local authorities. Overall, the voluntary sector provides around 38% of all registered care services in Scotland, and employs one quarter of all staff working in social care.

CCPS fully supports SCVO's position in this debate: we endorse the call for rigorous **monitoring** by the Scottish Government of any changes to voluntary sector involvement in the delivery of public services which may occur as a result of recent changes, most notably the move to single outcome agreements and the requirement for councils to make 2% efficiency savings. We also join SCVO in identifying a need for support, whether financial or practical, to assist voluntary organisations in their efforts to influence single outcome agreements and become involved in other **local strategic planning**.

In particular, however, we would like to highlight and expand upon the issues raised in SCVO's briefing which relate primarily to voluntary organisations providing services under contract to local authorities. These issues are also raised in the SCVO/STUC/Unison/CCPS document *Fair Funding for the Voluntary Sector*, a copy of which is attached.

- We are concerned about the uncertainty caused by local authorities **re-tendering** voluntary sector services, and the effect that this can have on people who use services; it is fundamentally unfair that someone receiving a social care service provided by a voluntary organisation under contract to a local authority should be subject to the anxiety and potential disruption of a change of provider following a re-tendering exercise, which those receiving a directly-provided local authority service are not subject to.
- Similarly, we would like to see **wages** for voluntary sector staff comparable to those awarded in the public sector, to ensure that staff working to provide public services from within voluntary organisations can expect terms and conditions comparable to those local authorities are able to offer; is it right, for example, that someone working for a voluntary organisation should be unsure because of falling contract values and a lack of inflationary uplift on that contract whether they will receive the cost-of-living increase of which their local authority counterparts are assured?
- For these reasons, we believe that councils should extend the new relationship of partnership and trust which they have with the Scottish Government to voluntary organisations who provide vital public services on their behalf – voluntary organisations feel that they too deserve “parity of esteem”.
- We would like to see a **National Contract Framework** agreed by local authorities and their voluntary sector contractors; it is our hope, along with the other partners involved in *Fair Funding for the Voluntary Sector*, that this framework would ensure: wages for voluntary sector staff comparable to those awarded in the public sector; agreement on the appropriate use of competitive tendering; training of public sector commissioners; and guidance on the meaning and application of Best Value, allowing voluntary organisations to work jointly with local authorities to continue to provide high quality public services in increasingly tight financial situations.

For further information on any of the issues raised in this briefing, or for any other queries regarding CCPS, please contact Kirsten Gooday, Policy and Development Manager on 0131 337 3295

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
Barnardos' 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
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Garvald Centre Edinburgh
Glasgow Housing Association
Glasgow Simon Community
Gowrie Care Ltd
Hanover(Scotland) Housing Association
Hansel Alliance
Health in Mind
Includem
Inspire
Key Housing Association
Kibble Education & Care Centre
Kingdom Housing Association
Lanarkshire Association for Mental Health
Leonard Cheshire Disability
LinkLiving Ltd
Loretto Housing Association
Mainstay Trust
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Momentum Care Services
Multiple Sclerosis Society Scotland
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Options for Independence - BRCS
Penumbra
Places for People Scotland Care & Support
PSS Scotland
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Queens Cross Housing Association
The Richmond Fellowship Scotland
SACRO
Scottish Association for Mental Health
Scottish Society for Autism
Scottish Women's Aid
Sense Scotland
SHARE Scotland
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Thistle Foundation
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Unity Enterprise Ltd
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