

Dorothy Warren
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21 December 2006

Dear Dorothy

Direct Payments For Self-Directed Care: Draft Policy and Practice Guidance

Many thanks for giving Community Care Providers Scotland the opportunity to comment on the draft Direct Payments policy and practice guidance. As you know, CCPS is the national association of voluntary sector organisations providing care and support services in Scotland.

Overall, we are pleased with references in the guidance to the possibility of direct payments being used to purchase services from the voluntary sector, in particular paragraphs 16 and 47 which refer specifically to voluntary organisations, and paragraphs 276, 302 and 317 of the guidance for specific groups, which highlight both the positives and negatives of purchasing services directly from a service providing organisation.

We do have some concerns, however, that the guidance does not acknowledge the often difficult funding relationship between voluntary organisations and local authorities, and that this leaves open the possibility of those in receipt of direct payments being stuck in the middle of difficult funding negotiations.

Paragraph 92 of the guidance states specifically that services provided by a local authority "should be 'sold' at no more or no less than the full cost to the local authority of providing the services." While we are of course supportive of this endorsement of the principle of Full Cost Recovery, we would like to see this principle extended to the purchase of all services. Where someone wishes to use a direct payment to purchase a service from a voluntary organisation, the amount of that direct payment must be adequate to cover the full cost of the service. This must be made very clear in the guidance.

The guidance refers in paragraph 51 to the fact that "the 1968 Act requires local authorities to make direct payments at a rate which is equal to the local authority's estimate of the reasonable cost, (based on the principles of best value in section 9) of the service users securing the provision of the preferred care assistance." It is the experience of many service providers in the voluntary sector that what a local authority considers to be a "reasonable" amount is still less than the "full cost" of the service. In line with the Scottish Executive's commitment to the principle of Full Cost Recovery for the voluntary sector, the guidance must be clear that where a disabled person intends to use a direct payment to purchase services from an agency, the payment must be adequate to meet that agency's costs.

Many thanks again for the opportunity to comment on the guidance. If you have any questions on our response, or if I can provide you with any further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Kirsten Gooday
Policy and Development Officer

**RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM – DIRECT PAYMENTS: NEW DRAFT
POLICY AND PRACTICE GUIDANCE**

Please complete the details below and attach it with your response. This will help ensure we

handle your response appropriately. Thank you for your help.

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1. Are you responding as: (please tick one box)

(a) an individual (go to Q2a/b and then Q4)

(b) **on behalf** of a group or organisation ✓ (go to Q3 and then Q4)

INDIVIDUALS:

2a. Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in the Scottish Executive (SE) library and/or on the SE website)?

Yes (go to Q2b below)

No, not at all

2b. **Where confidentiality is not requested**, we will make your response available to the public on the following basis (**please tick one** of the following boxes)

Yes, make my response, name and address all available

Yes, make my response available, but not my name or address

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

ON BEHALF OF GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS:

3. The name and address of your organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the (SE) library and/or on the SE website). Are you content for your response to be made available also?

Yes ✓

No

SHARING RESPONSES/FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

4. We will share your response internally with other SE policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we

require your permission to do so. Are you content for the Scottish Executive to contact you again in the future in relation to this consultation response?

Yes ✓

No