

CONSULTATION ON THE CONTINUING CARE (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT ORDER 2018
QUESTIONNAIRE November 2017

Q1. Do you agree with the intention, as was stated during development of the 2014 Act, to increase the higher age limit for persons eligible for continuing care from nineteen to twenty years of age from April 2018 to ensure that the current cohort of young people continue to be eligible as they increase in age until the duty to provide continuing care extends from 16 to 21 years of age?

Social Work Scotland fully supports the provision for continuing care in the 2014 Act and the aim of ensuring that looked after young people benefit from nurturing and safe placements that continue into adulthood according to their needs.

Social Work Scotland supports the increase in age until the duty to provide continuing care extends from 16-21 years of age.

Q2. Do you have any other comments on this consultation on the Continuing Care (Scotland) Amendment Order 2018?

Social Work Scotland notes the financial implications of providing continuing care for young people. Social Work Scotland believes that the original financial memorandum does not cover the cost of this policy. Chief Social Work Officers are concerned that agreed funding falls short of the full cost.

Given the short timescale for the consultation we have not had the opportunity to undertake a full survey of our members. However, members report an increase in the use of purchased placements as availability of local authority placements reduces while young people remain in placements longer. Some carers also expect fees and allowances to continue at the same or similar rates as a basis for offering the placement on a continuing care basis. The level of care, however, may be qualitatively different and fees should reflect the type of care a young person needs. The increase in numbers of looked after young people looked after in kinship care is a positive development and their entitlement to continuing care needs to be funded.

Social Work Scotland would welcome engagement and work with Scottish Government and COSLA on understanding the impact of continuing care beyond this amendment order. Such work should include evaluating the outcomes for young people as well as the costs of implementing continuing care.

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