



**SHAPING THE FUTURE OF CARE TOGETHER
MINISTERIAL STRATEGIC GROUP ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CARE:
COLLECTIVE RESPONSE**



Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP
Secretary of State for Health
Richmond House
59 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2WS



13 November 2009

CONSULTATION ON SHAPING THE FUTURE OF CARE GREEN PAPER

The response below is submitted by the Scottish Ministerial Strategic Group on Health and Community Care, which is chaired by Shona Robison, Minister for Public Health and Sport in the Scottish Government. The remit of the Ministerial Strategic Group (MSG) is to provide strategic leadership and oversight of health and social care from across the Scottish Government, NHS Scotland and local government in Scotland, represented by the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA).

The MSG has commissioned a programme of work, provisionally entitled “reshaping care of older people”, the objective of which is **to devise and promote a new model of health and social care that is fair, affordable and sustainable into the future**. We recognise that changes to care services must be aligned, mutually reinforcing and based on an agreed set of core principles. New models of care will be outcomes focussed, person-centred, based on the principle of enablement, and will require an integrated approach across health and local government.

We fully recognise and respect the need for a long-term review of social care and support in England, and do not wish to comment on proposals which will affect only England. However, your reserved authority over the British benefits system allows you greater freedom to consider concurrent reforms of disability benefits than are available to the devolved administrations. We are very concerned therefore that in reforming GB-wide disability benefits to meet English objectives for reform of social care, Scottish objectives and ambitions for reshaping social care may be restricted. For example, your

recommendation to bring together care and benefits for older people into a single system (through the abolition of attendance allowance) will have profound implications for the delivery of health and social care in Scotland. A fuller exploration of this proposal and its consequences would be apposite. In particular the views and concerns about the future of Attendance Allowance, of the voluntary sector and those organisations representing people with disabilities in Scotland must be given due recognition.

We agree there is a need to explore options for potentially radical changes to the long-term funding of care and support in the UK to ensure that it is “fair, sustainable and unambiguous about the respective responsibilities of the state, family and individual”. However, we are concerned about the limited detail set out in the Green Paper exploring the options for the future funding of social care and support, especially in light of the fact that engagement on the “big debate” has been restricted to England. In particular, the UK Government’s reform agenda does not:

- Take sufficient account of the devolution settlement and the Scottish Parliament’s devolved responsibility for social care;
- Allow for divergence of policy and delivery of social care in Scotland; and
- Afford the people of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland the same opportunity to debate significant matters potentially affecting UK national taxation and welfare benefits.

We therefore believe that your proposals around the funding of social care, while carefully crafted, must be considered within the context of the devolution settlement. We recognise that there is a need to ensure that funding for social care has a more certain future, but special attention ought to be paid to the impact of, say, benefit reform, on the delivery of social care in Scotland.

To conclude, we recognise that the UK Government faces a significant challenge in delivering a taxation and benefits system that supports all of the citizens of the UK; but we feel that in advancing your reform agenda, there is a need to more effectively reach out to the devolved administrations and their partners.



Shona Robison, MSP,
Minister for Public Health and Sport



Councillor Ronnie McColl, West
Dunbartonshire Council and COSLA
Spokesperson for Health and
Wellbeing

Councillor Tim Brett, Fife Council
Councillor Margaret Davidson, Highland Council
Professor Jim McGoldrick, Chair, NHS Fife
Ian Mullen, Chair, NHS Forth Valley
Sandy Watson, Chair, NHS Tayside

