

## Adult Social Care Reforms

Carers took part in a workshop providing an update on adult social care reform and following a presentation, the following issues were highlighted by carers.

It came through strongly from participants that:

- social care does not have the value placed upon it that it should and more investment is needed
- the Scottish Government could do more. Good policies are in place, such as self-directed support and integration but they are not working consistently and there are still blocks in place.
- ring fencing should be considered to ensure that legislation is implemented both consistently and as intended and recognition is needed of the gaps that currently exist e.g. for support in rural carers and the anxieties about staffing when Brexit happens
- real partnership and trust is needed – from carers having a real voice and being valued on integrated joint boards, to trusting people to know and choose what **they** need using their SDS budgets; giving real choice and control.

### Investment and valuing social care

- Carers at centre of social care support
- Further investment needed in care and support
- Franks Law – ring fencing – have Scottish government looked at it? – if it was ring fenced it would go on carers
- Don't know how much money is being spent in social care in Scotland – what about free bus to carers? – quick fix
- To understand value social care brings – changing opinions on what disability is
- Respite – not always about taking disabled person out – spend time as a family
- Social care – look beyond social work
- Take disability out of Social Work – fear when it comes to children
- Part of systems listening/understanding – other parts blocking it – why we need to collectively be making things better
- Rural – time – travel time to get to people to help

### Self Directed Support

#### 1. Training

- SDS – staff are not selling it right
- Rolling it out before they knew what it was
- Staff member hadn't been trained when came out to visit son about SDS

## 2. Budgets and support offered

- Not realistic support offered
- Time/advertising – budget
- Challenged on how to spend money
- No respect on how people could spending it to meet their needs
- Not had SDS budget – couldn't spend it in right way
- Person assessed to need 2 carers, but happy for parents to do
- My SDS package is working great – took long time to get there but working out fantastic
- I want my life to change – son said to parents
- Was able to get funding to put support in place – not everyone knows where to go

## 3. Consistency

- Postcode Lottery – everyone implements it in different way – not given information
- Should be options – not every area has it
- Should be implemented same way across Scotland – process the same
- Why do I have to go through system again? – I just want to look after my daughter – SDS package didn't follow to new local authority

## Staffing social care

- EU nationals – support to register through government – wider impact of people not coming to work as carers – don't have enough people to work in social care and especially in rural areas - not valued
- Gap year students working in residential care – doing wonderful job – not allowed to stay past year – they want to stay
- Brexit carers came from abroad – time bomb waiting to explode – what is government's plans?
- £1,000 vs £700 cost – local authority cost vs care home rate – inconsistency of wage – got to be a balance

## Integration

- IJB – very frustrated, carers reps don't get vote – impacts on me what they vote – what's the point on sitting on it?
- Who pays for it – social care or health? – will be looking at what is working – vicious circle – ring fencing
- Carers – carers satisfaction – tick box – not reflective of IJB - can't afford to go for last 6 months due to caring role – everyone else there paid to be there – carers should be paid for time/respite for cared for/travel
- Model in same areas – Aberdeen something like this – couldn't agree who should pay for it social work or health
- Bed blocking – huge cost. Build ECO house – person move in, family trained before moving home
- Unpaid carers already not paid – taking p\*ss not to pay them

## Mental Health

- Mental health – strategy will have same budget – 800 mental health nurses employed in Scotland – had not been recognised as the issue as it is – new strategy with money attached to it

## **Autism**

- Autism strategy – taken 3 years to get someone employed to map out autism services

## **Carers Act**

- Carers Act – COSLA not agree to 32 local authorities implementing same way – stumbling block right there
- How does member of the public find out how to find out how Carers Act money is spent – more transparency
- Explain it better to people new in system - what are you entitled to – what about carer support plan?

## **Engagement**

- Scottish Government listening to issues
- Where do we need to put energy?
- Is pathway to get more powers devolved?
- Voice not being heard
- We don't need to hear same stories over and over again – how do we move forward?
- People who shout the most get the most – carers don't have time to shout
- People having a say in services that affect them – not just a tick box
- Mapping exercise – through 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector – other organisations – what's there then social work fills the gaps