

Response ID ANON-V2XP-WNBH-Y

Submitted to **A consultation on the draft National Action Plan on Neurological Conditions (2019-2024)**

Submitted on 2019-02-08 13:21:44

Our Vision, Scope and Approach

1 Everyone with a neurological condition will be able to access the care and support they need to live well, on their own terms.

Yes

2 Do you agree with the decision to maintain a broad view of neurological conditions rather than include every neurological condition by name in the plan?

Yes, I agree

3 There is separate work by Scottish Government considering how best to support children and young people with disabilities and their families, so we decided to consider the needs of people who are 16 years and older in the plan.

Yes, I agree

4 Developing the National Action Plan involved a range of activities to make sure we identified the right priorities. Do you think we included the most important priorities in the plan?

Not Answered

5 If you would like to make any comments in relation to any of the questions above, please do so here.

If you would like to make any comments in relation to any of the questions above, please do so here: :

Ensure people with neurological conditions and their carers are partners in their care and support

6 Aim A

Yes

7 Commitment 1

Yes

8 Commitment 2

Yes

9 Commitment 3

Yes

10 If you would like to make any comments in relation to Aim A and Commitments 1 - 3, please do so here.

If you would like to make any comments in relation to Aim A and Commitments 1 - 3, please do so here: :

Improve the provision of co-ordinated health and social care and support for people with neurological conditions

11 Aim B

Yes

12 Commitment 4

Yes

13 Commitment 5

Yes

14 Commitment 6

Yes

15 Commitment 7

Yes

16 Commitment 8

Yes

17 Commitment 9

Yes

18 Commitment 10

Yes

19 If you would like to make any comments in relation to Aim B and Commitments 4 - 10, please do so here.

If you would like to make any comments in relation to Aim B and Commitments 4 - 10, please do so here: :

Scottish Care supports the essence of all the above commitments. We agree that it is essential that neurological support, policy development and service articulation must be undertaken from the perspective of integrated health and social care services. The creation of a continuous and seamless pathway of support for those with neurological conditions is critically important.

However, we would wish to underline that the Plan in its present format does not sufficiently articulate or appreciate the role and contribution of care homes and home care services and their staff amongst other agencies and professionals within the health community. This lack of awareness of and appreciation of the role of the independent sector in neurological support clearly limits the potential of multi-disciplinary team working and serves to isolate the individual being supported and to result in a poorer level of care from health professionals.

Scottish Care welcomes the commitment to reform adult social care and seeks to support this work. However, regardless of reform we believe that the present level of fiscal resourcing and prioritising of social care per se in Scotland to be wholly inadequate. This is particularly compounded when one considers the social care support of individuals with neurological conditions. Urgent consideration needs to be given, for instance through the National Care Home Contract and Integrated Joint Board Commissioning plans, to prioritising financial resources to enable the adequate, rights-based, support and care of individuals with neurological conditions.

The importance of adequate and holistic assessment is critical to positive personal outcomes. Scottish Care remains concerned that the failure of Local Authorities and social work assessment staff to appropriately implement the Social Care (Self-directed Support) Act is preventing the achievement of adequate holistic assessments. Even the development of a Plan will be a struggle for many organisations to achieve without some degree of resourcing.

Ensure high standards of effective, person-centred, and safe care and support

20 Aim C

Yes

21 Commitment 11

Yes

22 Commitment 12

Yes

23 Commitment 13

Yes

24 If you would like to make any comments in relation to Aim C and Commitments 11 - 13, please do so here.

If you would like to make any comments in relation to Aim C and Commitments 11 - 13, please do so here.:

Improve equitable and timely access to care and support across Scotland

25 Aim D

Yes

26 Commitment 14

Yes

27 Commitment 15

Yes

28 If you would like to make any comments in relation to Aim D and Commitments 14 - 15, please do so here.

If you would like to make any comments in relation to Aim D and Commitments 14 - 15, please do so here: :

Build a sustainable neurological workforce fit for the future

29 Aim E

Yes

30 Commitment 16

Yes

31 Commitment 17

Yes

32 If you would like to make any comments in relation to Aim E and Commitments 16 - 17, please do so here.

If you would like to make any comments in relation to Aim E and Commitments 16 - 17, please do so here: :

The development, capacity building and training of staff in the independent care sector requires prioritisation and the creation of an overarching national development strategy rather than being left to the already strained resources amongst a whole range of small and medium sized providers.

We absolutely agree that the nurturing and professional development of a skilled staffing base is critical for good care and support. Scottish Care has stated above the need for a significant resourcing of the social care sector whose staff are increasingly undertaking the support and care of individuals with neurological conditions. Autonomous, confident staff are fostered and enabled through themselves feeling valued and supported. This cannot be achieved without a recognition of the need to strategically resource this development.

As stated above Scottish Care is concerned that there is a failure on the part of some colleagues within the NHS to properly understand and respect the role of clinical colleagues working in the independent care sector especially in care homes. Work needs to be undertaken to address knowledge gaps and inconsistent practice to ensure that the defined pathways of care are properly supported and implemented. The experience of many care homes all too frequently is of poor support in some parts of the country. This is a particular challenge for care homes which support individuals with neurological conditions who frequently as a result receive poorer treatment and care from NHS colleagues. This is true for the whole range of care.

The delivery of person-led and focussed neurological support by social care staff cannot be left to the vicissitudes of diverse Integrated Joint Board planning and commissioning. We believe that individuals with neurological conditions require to be supported in a strategic manner that reflects the national importance of this support. In particular we do not believe that many individuals have significant health care needs which should be seen as such and not as social care support. We are expecting too much from an unskilled, stretched and un-resourced staff group within the home care and care home sector. This ill-serves the population with neurological care needs.

Implementation of the plan

33 We want the plan to be implemented successfully and to be able to measure success.

Please provide comments or suggestions on the implementation of the plan here::

A significant awareness raising exercise is required including the resourcing of social care organisations, development of a media strategy and information protocol.

34 What is the most important thing we need to change to improve the NAP?

What is the most important thing we need to change to improve the NAP:

Greater focus on the role of social care in Tier 2 support and the need to adequately consult, engage, and include the independent care sector and its workforce.

35 If you have any other comments or suggestions please make them here.

If you have any other comments or suggestions please make them here: :

About you

What is your name?

Name:

Becca Gatherum

What is your email address?

Email:

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Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

Scottish Care

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response with name

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government 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 Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes