

Future of Local Care Services

Notice of Motion

Motion received in terms of Standing Order No 20 on 7 August 2023, proposed by Councillor Robert Brown, seconded by Councillor Norman Rae, as follows:-

“Council reiterates its opposition to the Scottish Government’s proposals for a National Care Service with bureaucratic costs estimated at well in excess of £1 billion, and our repeated representations to the Scottish Government calling for the proposals to be scrapped.

Council welcomes the so-called “Verity House” agreement on closer cooperation between Scottish Government and local government signed in June and the announcement of the initial agreement between the Scottish Government, the NHS and COSLA about accountability arrangements for the proposed National Care Service - and the “partial climb down” by Scottish Ministers it entails.

Council recognises the national dimension to the funding of, and standards in, care services, and in supporting workforce planning to deliver a well-trained, motivated and suitably qualified workforce in appropriate numbers to ensure high quality care services to all who need it.

Council remains opposed to the Scottish Government seeking to take increased control over care services which are in essence local services and are best commissioned and provided locally.

Noting the continuing pressures on care services and their staff, Council calls on the Scottish Government to:

1. Urgently reallocate the funding set aside to establish the NCS to fund front line care services;
2. Abandon their proposed bureaucratic national structure for the NCS and reconsider the arrangements for national oversight of care services which remain complex and confusing with Scottish Ministers, the Care Inspectorate, Care Information Scotland, the Scottish Social Services Council, the proposed National Social Work Agency and the proposed National Care Service amongst others all having a role;
3. Abandon any part of the proposals which have the effect of removing powers over care and social work services from local councils;
4. Start a fresh consultation with stakeholders, not least Local Government, about the proposals”