

COSLA Special Leaders

Wednesday, 10 February 2021

Amendments

Amendment – Labour and SNP Groups

Item 2 - Independent Review of Adult Social Care in Scotland (paper LD/21/27)

(In response to recommendation ii) asking for comments.)

Leaders note the publication of the Feeley Report on the Independent Review of Adult Social Care in Scotland.

Leaders express their grave concern at the recommendations on governance and accountability which would see the removal of local democratic accountability and a degree of centralisation that would be detrimental to the local delivery of social care and its integration with other key community services.

Leaders endorse the principles set out in the report of:

- Empowering people
- Valuing the workforce
- A human rights approach

Leaders strongly agree that the lived experience of those who rely on social care should be embedded within the system and that social care should move to a more person centred approach, recognising the value of not for profit provision. Social care should be:

- Accessible;
- Personalised;
- Integrated;
- Preventative;
- Respectful; and
- Safe

However, Leaders express particular concern at the recommendation 15 that states:

“Accountability for social care support should move from local government to Scottish Ministers, and a Minister should be appointed with specific responsibility for Social Care.”

This concern mirrors the findings of the report itself when it says:

“We asked what would worry people about a National Care Service, and the most frequently mentioned concern was that it would bring loss of local knowledge and expertise.”

Leaders also endorse the comments from SOLACE and from Directors of Finance in paragraphs 17 and 18 of the report.

Leaders therefore restate COSLA’s position as expressed in the agreed Blueprint for Local Government that:

“Discussion on the future of social care has centred on the potential creation of a National Care Service. This can mean many different things to different people. Moving towards a National Care Service should not be merely accepted as the necessary means of reform without proper consideration of its scope, resourcing and, vitally, its implications for local decision making. Any National Care Service must be locally empowered, reflect the needs of our communities and recognise the vital role of the third sector. It must be outcome focussed with the principle of addressing health inequalities at its core, ensure that social care is on an even playing field and address the financial challenges facing the sector. This can only be achieved by Local Government that is rooted in the community and employs local people.”

Leaders mandate COSLA officers and spokespeople to undertake appropriate lobbying in relation to this report, based on this position.

Proposed by: Councillor Stephen McCabe (Inverclyde Council)

Seconded by: Councillor Douglas Reid (East Ayrshire Council)