

PE1533/QQ

COSLA submission of 3 July 2019

Thank you for your letter to COSLA in relation to the above petition.

I understand that you have written to Scottish Government and they have provided information on the work jointly undertaken to develop a national programme to support local reform of adult social care. COSLA have long advocated for the need for a programme of reform to place social care on a more sustainable footing. The reform programme and ensuring the sustainability of social care is a priority for COSLA's Health and Social Care Board.

The programme was launched on the 12th June 2019 and work is ongoing to develop the programme workstreams with a range of partners across the sector. One area of the programme will be to look at investment in social care which will include consideration of future funding and charging models.

Whilst the programme of reform has been developed COSLA continue to produce annual non-residential care charging guidance this sets a framework to guide Local Authorities charging policies, whilst maintaining local democratic accountability and decision making. The guidance is intended to support greater consistency between local areas whilst recognising that there are legitimate reasons why charges may vary such as the need to respond to local need and democratically determined priorities. As part of the development of this guidance COSLA convene a Charging Working Group to develop the guidance against a set of priorities agreed by the COSLA Health and Social Care Board.

I hope this letter along with the information provided by Scottish Government provides the Committee with the information required, however we would be happy to discuss further.