

02 November 2023

Clare Haughey MSP
Convener Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
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Dear Health, Social Care and Sport Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide evidence on behalf of COSLA as part of your scrutiny of the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill.

During the evidence session on 24th October 2023, I confirmed I would follow-up in writing with respect to COSLA's engagement in co-design discussions related to the proposed National Care Service Charter.

As the committee will be aware, COSLA welcomed the creation of a Charter within our original response to the NCS Bill. It is important that people accessing support services in Scotland know what to expect from their care, and we recognise the value that a Charter may bring in helping people and partners to realise a rights-based system.

I can confirm Scottish Government officials have engaged with COSLA officers on the NCS Charter. An early draft of the Charter, which has been co-designed with people with lived experience, has been shared with COSLA officers. COSLA is now in the process of seeking views from colleagues across Local Government on the draft document, in an effort to provide initial feedback to assist in its further development. I anticipate COSLA continuing to support development of the Charter as it continues to be co-designed with people and partners into 2024.

I understand too, the committee was interested in whether the Charter should be included within the face of the Bill. As we currently understand, the Charter is intended to communicate rights which are already underpinned by domestic legislation.

Of course, COSLA remains clear that there must be sufficient resource invested across social work and social care to ensure rights are understood, protected and respected, with the effective realisation of rights requiring capacity and opportunities for knowledge-building.

Kind regards,
Eddie Follan