

Coalition Programme for Government: "Freedom, Fairness, Responsibility"

This document was published on 20th May 2010 and covers 31 policy areas, including banking, business, civil liberties, equalities, consumer protection, immigration, pensions, defence and transport. What follows is a summary of some of the key areas that might impact on social care and health services

Social Care and Disability

The Government believes that people needing care deserve to be treated with dignity and respect and understand the urgency of reforming the system of social care to provide much more control to individuals and their carers, and to ease the cost burden that they and their families face. Government will:

- Establish a commission on long-term care, to report within a year. The commission will consider a range of ideas, including both a voluntary insurance scheme to protect the assets of those who go into residential care, and a partnership scheme as proposed by Derek Wanless.
- Break down barriers between health and social care funding to incentivise preventative action.
- Extend the greater roll-out of personal budgets to give people and their carers more control and purchasing power.
- Use direct payments to carers and better community-based provision to improve access to respite care.
- Reform Access to Work, so disabled people can apply for jobs with funding already secured for any adaptations and equipment they will need.

Families and Children

The Government believes that strong and stable families of all kinds are the bedrock of a strong and stable society. They intend

to make society more family friendly and to take action to protect children from excessive commercialisation and premature sexualisation. They will:

- Maintain the goal of ending child poverty in the UK by 2020.
- Support the provision of free nursery care for pre-school children, and we want that support to be provided by a diverse range of providers, with a greater gender balance in the early years' workforce.
- Take Sure Start back to its original purpose of early intervention, increase its focus on the neediest families, and better involve organisations with a track record of supporting families. They will investigate ways of ensuring that providers are paid in part by the results they achieve.
- Re-focus funding from Sure Start peripatetic outreach services, and from the Department of Health budget, to pay for 4,200 extra Sure Start health visitors.
- Investigate a new approach to helping families with multiple problems.
- Publish serious case reviews, with identifying details removed.
- Encourage shared parenting from the earliest stages of pregnancy – including the promotion of a system of flexible parental leave.
- Put funding for relationship support on a stable, long-term footing, and make sure that couples are given greater encouragement to use existing relationship support.
- Conduct a comprehensive review of family law in order to increase the use of mediation when couples do break up, and to look at how best to provide greater access rights to non-resident parents and grandparents. *Continued*

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Message from the Chair | 2 |
| Coalition Programme for Government | 3 |
| Adult Review Group Meeting (ARG) | 7 |
| ADSW news | 9 |
| BSW – Recent abstracts | 10 |
| Integrated Children's Services | 11 |
| Self Directed Support (Scotland) Bill RIA | 12 |
| Scottish Government Integrated Resource Framework | 13 |
| SSRG events | 14 |
| Star Chamber Scrutiny Board | 15 |
| Person Centred Care event | 17 |
| Silly Sausage | 19 |