February 2019

**Draft National Action Plan on Neurological Conditions (2019-2024)**

**Scottish Government**

**Our Vision, Scope and Approach**

**1 Everyone with a neurological condition will be able to access the care and support they need to live well, on their own terms.**

Yes

**2 Do you agree with the decision to maintain a broad view of neurological conditions rather than include every neurological condition by name in the plan?**

Yes, I agree

**3 There is separate work by Scottish Government considering how best to support children and young people with disabilities and their families, so we decided to consider the needs of people who are 16 years and older in the plan.**

Yes, I agree

**4 Developing the National Action Plan involved a range of activities to make sure we identified the right priorities. Do you think we included the most important priorities in the plan?**

Yes

**6 Aim A**

Yes

**7 Commitment 1**

Yes

**8 Commitment 2**

Yes

**9 Commitment 3**

Yes

**If you would like to make any comments in relation to Aim A and Commitments 1 - 3, please do so here: :**

Age Scotland welcomes commitments 1 – 3, in particular the emphasis on shared decision making between health and social care professionals and people living

with neurological conditions. We also welcome the commitment to support carers, in order to raise awareness of their rights under the Carers Act. Many carers will be older carers, who have succinct needs and are less likely to access information and advice online. It is therefore essential that any information and advice services and training materials developed for carers of people with neurological conditions are not digital by default, but available in printed formats, face to face, and over the phone.

This approach must also be applied to commitment 2 in regards to information on neurological conditions, and care and support.

**Improve the provision of co-ordinated health and social care and support for people with neurological conditions**

**11 Aim B**

Yes

**12 Commitment 4**

Yes

**13 Commitment 5**

Yes

**14 Commitment 6**

Yes

**15 Commitment 7**

Yes

**16 Commitment 8**

Yes

**17 Commitment 9**

Yes

**18 Commitment 10**

Yes

**19 If you would like to make any comments in relation to Aim B and Commitments 4 - 10, please do so here.**

**If you would like to make any comments in relation to Aim B and Commitments 4 - 10, please do so here: :**

Age Scotland welcomes Aim B to improve the provision of co-ordinated health and social and support for people with neurological conditions. For this to succeed there must be real commitment from leaders in Health and Social care to work together, and a willingness to create transformational change in order to realise the full potential of health and social care integration.

Age Scotland welcomes the use of new digital initiatives and recognise the potential benefits that can be made due to new technology. We would urge however that any technological approach to providing information, as described in Commitment 7, is also available in non digital formats in order to be as accessible as possible and to recognise the fact that significant number of people in Scotland don’t have access to, or use the internet.

Age Scotland recognise the importance of testing new models of care and their valuation in order to improve services and support for people with neurological conditions as described in Commitment 9. It is essential that such testing and evaluation involves people living with neurological conditions and their carers directly in order to ensure that services meet their needs.

**Ensure high standards of effective, person-centred, and safe care and support**

**20 Aim C**

Yes

**21 Commitment 11**

Yes

**22 Commitment 12**

Yes

**23 Commitment 13**

Yes

**24 If you would like to make any comments in relation to Aim C and Commitments 11 - 13, please do so here.**

Age Scotland welcomes Aim C and its associated commitments, in particular commitment 13.

**Improve equitable and timely access to care and support across Scotland**

**25 Aim D**

Yes

**26 Commitment 14**

Yes

**27 Commitment 15**

Yes

**28 If you would like to make any comments in relation to Aim D and Commitments 14 - 15, please do so here.**

**If you would like to make any comments in relation to Aim D and Commitments 14 - 15, please do so here: :**

Age Scotland believes that there should be a distinct pathway for people transitioning from adult services to older people services. This will ensure that people receive the right support at the right time, in a way that is accessible to them.

We support the Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland’s (the ALLIANCE) findings from ‘Priorities from the Lived Experience Project’ that planning, preparation and communication are central for preparing for transition between services.

**Build a sustainable neurological workforce fit for the future**

**29 Aim E**

Yes

**30 Commitment 16**

Yes

**31 Commitment 17**

Yes

**32 If you would like to make any comments in relation to Aim E and Commitments 16 - 17, please do so here.**

Having the right workforce in place means that people with neurological conditions will receive the care they need at the right time, and crucially, in a safe way.

Age Scotland therefore supports Aim E and believe that this aim and associated commitments must be worked upon in the context of the national reform of adult social care which the Scottish Government is currently undertaking.

**Want to find out more?**

As Scotland’s national charity supporting people over the age of 50, Age Scotland works to improve older people’s lives and promote their rights and interests. We aim to help people love later life, whatever their circumstances. We want Scotland to be the best place in the world to grow older.

Our Policy, Communications and Campaigns team research, analyse and comment on a wide range of public policy issues affecting older people in Scotland.

Our work is guided by the views and needs of older people themselves.

**Further information**

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