



## **PE1179/II**

Public Petitions Committee  
T3.40  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

### **Stirling & Clackmannanshire Council Response to Public Petition PE1179 re Acquired Brain Injury Social Care Services**

As the petition states acquired brain injury does not fit neatly in to the current categories of Mental Health, Physical Disability or Learning Disability and currently neither Stirling or Clackmannanshire Council have ABI as a separate and distinct client category. We acknowledge that this may result in a lack of specific resource provision. We therefore support the separate categorisation of ABI and believe this would enhance the identification of resources, improving care pathways and service delivery, and enable clear planning of services within local areas.

Within both councils we offer training on brain injury, which is designed, to raise awareness, inform and clarify the complex effects this condition can have not only on the survivor but for all those involved in their care. This training is open to all social care staff and staff working in the third and independent sector. Those involved in working directly with ABI comment on the hidden aspects of ABI and state that for the individual, their families and carers it is often the associated behavioural problems which are hardest to manage. A holistic assessment, which takes account of the individual prior to injury, is crucial to understanding the person. This is in line with our commitment to a person-centred approach and ensuring that individual needs are met by providing outcomes focussed assessments and care plans that are monitored and reviewed regularly.

Planning for acquired brain injury services is currently included within other care group strategies and whilst some services are provided internally others are purchased from external agencies. We are committed to engaging with service users their families and carers and ensuring that their views inform the commissioning and planning of services. We also contract with carers centres to provide support for carers of those with ABI as well as income and benefit maximisation. The employability team offer support in terms of prevocational training, buddying and mentoring within the work place and if required

continued support. We have invested heavily in a range of telecare equipment to support those with ABI in the community from cognitive support software to environmental controls depending on individual requirements.

The treatment and support of those with ABI sits across a wide range of community care services and we agree with the need to have cohesive and well-coordinated delivery of services and support. We are aware of the complex difficulties, physical, cognitive and social, which people with ABI have to live with and their impact on families, carers and others. It is our view that the Scottish Government's proposal for the Integration of adult health and social care as well as the implementation of self directed support is a positive step in ensuring that people with ABI experience a smooth transition between hospital and community, that the realignment and integration of budgets will enhance the care, support and service provision currently available and will ensure that people with ABI achieve consistently good outcomes.

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