

FC44. Notice of Motion

Frank's Law

Councillor D Goldie, seconded by Councillor Gow, moved that:-

Council notes that, currently, legislation enables personal care to be provided free for people in Scotland aged over 65, provided they are assessed as needing it.

Of the 85,807 dementia sufferers in Scotland 3,201 are under the age of 65 and therefore not entitled to the help.

Council commends the campaign by Mrs Amanda Kopel – “Frank’s Law” – to requests that the Scottish Government extend free personal care to anyone under the age of 65 who requires such care for their dementia, motor neurone disease, parkinson’s, multiple sclerosis, cancer, progressive supranuclear palsy (or any other degenerative brain disease).

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to the First Minister requesting her to consider the introduction of a “Frank’s Law” so that free personal care is extended to under 65s as set out above.

In addition, Council agrees to ask the Provost to write to Mrs Kopel to congratulate her on her campaign.

As an amendment, Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Bird, moved, in substitution for the motion, that:-

Council notes the real health benefits provided by the Scottish Government to mitigate the impact of Tory austerity policies.

SNP policies such as free prescriptions, the effective abolition of the Bedroom Tax and the protection of NHS budgets have all contributed in a positive manner to the promotion of the care of vulnerable groups of people.

Council also notes the commitment given in the 2016 SNP manifesto to,

- transformation of the NHS with nearly £2 billion of extra investment,
- delivering more healthcare closer to home;
- new action to tackle cancer, and improve mental health services

Council also notes the opinion of partner organisations such as COSLA and endorses the partner approach as the correct way to promote a fair policy on benefit entitlement.

At a time when Scottish and Local Government’s budgets are being slashed and the full impact of BREXIT is yet to be felt, Council agrees to:-

- (1) support the principles of Frank’s Law;
- (2) seek to develop a partnership approach between Local, National and UK Governments as under the terms of the motion Local Government would bear the financial burden of implementation; and

(3) declare that given the choice of healthcare or weapons of mass destruction this Council urges the cancellation of the £200 billion renewal of Trident nuclear weapons system.

Following consideration of terms of the proposed amendment, the Provost ruled, in terms of Standing Order 20.10 that clause (3) was not relevant to the motion because it introduced new subject matter and consequently would not be considered. In light of this ruling, Councillor Alexander with the consent of his seconder, intimated that he wished to withdraw the clause.

Council then debated the terms of the motion and adjusted amendment.

In terms of Standing Order 22.4(i), the vote was taken by roll call, there being 29 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For the motion (16) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Patrick; Baillies Buchanan and Paterson; Councillors Black, Blackwood, D Goldie, Gow, MacDonald, McLuckie, Mahoney, C Martin, Dr C R Martin, Murray, Nicol and Spears.

For the amendment (12) – Councillors Alexander, Balfour, Bird, Carleschi, Chalmers, Coleman, Garner, Hughes, Jackson, Meiklejohn, Oliver and Ritchie.

Abstention (1) – Councillor McCabe.

Decision

Council agreed the motion.