

Wheelchair and Seating Services Modernisation: An Action Plan
A response from Community Care Providers Scotland
October 2008

Community Care Providers Scotland is the national association of voluntary sector organisations providing care and support services across Scotland. CCPS members support approximately 160,000 people and their families, many of whom, particularly those with physical disabilities and older people, are occasional or permanent wheelchair users.

Individual members of CCPS have been encouraged to submit their own responses to this consultation, giving their impression of the effects which the draft action plan may have on their organisations and the people who use their services.

While CCPS welcomes the focus in the draft action plan on service user and carer involvement, we would urge the Scottish Government also to consider the impact of any proposals on service provider organisations.

In particular, we would suggest that the impact of decisions around wheelchair provision on providers' ability to provide services should be considered during the care planning process. For example, where an assessment does not consider the ability of care staff to push an individual who is unable to self-propel their chair, this could compromise the health and safety of staff, or, potentially, lead to staff not being able or permitted to push the chair, severely restricting that person's mobility.

The impact of maintenance and repairs on the ability of providers to deliver a high quality service should also be considered. We note that the draft action plan does not contain agreed response times for repairs and maintenance; when providers do not know when wheelchairs will be returned to the people who rely on them, it can cause difficulties for them in planning staff cover and arranging community activities.

Respondent information

Kirsten Gooday
Policy and Development Manager
Community Care Providers Scotland
9 Ellersly Road
Edinburgh
EH12 6HY

I am responding on behalf of an organisation.

I am happy for my response to be made available and/or for the Scottish Government to contact me in relation to this response.