

LABOUR CANDIDATE WELCOMES MOVES TOWARDS A NATIONAL CARE SERVICE

20 December 2011

Labours Banffshire and Buchan Holyrood candidate Alan Duffill has welcomed the establishment by the Labour Party of an Expert Group to look at establishing a National Care Service with national standards of care

The Expert Panel will undertake a series of listening exercises across Scotland to produce a report by next April which will set out the principles that will underpin a National Care Service.

Commenting on the setting up of the Expert Group Alan Duffill commented:-

“Almost all families in Scotland at some point find themselves caring for elderly relatives in need of care. Many require assistance not just from the Health service but also from Social services.

Carers often don't like to ask for assistance or don't know who to ask for assistance; but when they do the help they get or the support that they are offered varies dramatically from area to area.

We are committed to setting up a National Care Service within the lifetime of the next Parliament that people can rely on. The establishment of an Expert Group tasked with reporting back by next April is a key first step in delivering that. Its recommendations will be key to what proposals we bring forward in our Holyrood manifesto.

We currently have a postcode lottery of care. A National Care Service will mean the local delivery of national standards. Just as our creation of the National Health Service in 1947 provided a step change in health care delivery across the nation the delivery of a National Care Service will enhance and improve the delivery of care and support to carers and their families.”

Notes

The Expert Panel will be chaired by Sir John Arbuthnott.

Its membership will comprise

David Manion, Chief Executive of Age Concern

Cllr Harry McGuigan

Dr Harry Noble GP

Professor Brian Williams, Royal College of Physicians, former Consultant Geriatrician

Professor June Andrews, Dementia Development Centre, Stirling University

Peter Scott, Chief Executive, Enable Scotland

Hugh Clarke, Retired Head of Fieldwork Services, Glasgow City Council Social Work Services

Remit: To make recommendations on the establishment of a National Care Service for Scotland; recognising the need to shift the balance of care to community settings;

acknowledging the important role of carers and all care providers; ensuring and equally high and fair standard of care across the country; and improving the experience for people requiring care, their families and their carers.

The Expert Group will be expected to specifically consider

The funding available from a merged social care budget from both local authorities and health

Future needs and demographic trends

Governance arrangements for a national care service based on a reform of CHCPs

The role of all care providers

The scope for including services for those with learning disabilities, physical disabilities and mental health issues alongside older peoples services

Managing the transition from the existing pattern of care services