

News Release – draft
Right to Care Campaign

Claire Rayner launches probe into public experience with long term care.

Claire Rayner, patron of the Right to Care campaign is launching a public consultation around people's experiences of long term care. It is 5 years since she was part of the government's Royal Commission and since then there has been no review of the impact of government policy and whether it is meeting the needs of people. The Right to Care Campaign, which has devised the consultation believes that the number of people being asked to pay for aspects of their care is rising, as more people are cared for outside of hospital.

The consultation will seek experiences from across the community. Questions the project wants to focus on include; who is paying for care, is appropriate care being delivered and is the current system well understood? The Right to Care Campaign will report its findings before the end of the year.

Further information is available from the Right to Care website www.righthtocare.org or from a help line 01273 234820.

The campaign will compare the results with research it is conducting, of the experience of the system in Scotland, where personal care costs receives state funding.

Claire Rayner said,

“There has been little feed back through the government's Big Conversation on this issue. We believe it is crucial to find out whether people are getting the care they need and how they are paying for it. In Scotland they have tried state support for personal care with some encouraging results, we should learn from this.”

“We know that long term care is a major issue that affects all of us at some point in our lives. We all have an interest, so let's share the cost fairly and take the burden away from the patient.”

The Right to Care Campaign, a coalition of 17 national organisations believes that the Government must fully fund personal and nursing care that is free at the point of use for all who need long term care, wherever they live throughout the UK, as recommended in the Royal Commission report.

notes: members of the Right to Care Campaign include UNISON, Action on Elder Abuse; Age Concern Scotland; Arthritis Care; Carers UK; Coalition on Charging; Counsel and Care; Leonard Cheshire; Mencap; National Pensioners Convention; NHS Support Federation; The Patients' Association; RADAR; Royal College of Nursing; VOICES. Patrons are Claire Rayner and Robin Wendt. both members of the Government's Royal Commission into Long Term Care of the Elderly

more> Paul Evans, NHS Support Federation, 01273234822 / 07775583528