



Prime Ministers
To note. This mirror the
arrangements in England.

BHP

17/7

SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

(2)

Miss Carys Evans
Private Secretary to the Chief Secretary
HM Treasury
Parliament Street
London
SW1P 3AG

17 July 1990

Dear Carys

COMMUNITY CARE: IMPLEMENTATION: SCOTLAND

Andy McKeon wrote to you yesterday with the draft statement which his Secretary of State intends to make on Wednesday announcing the Government's decision on the phasing of the implementation of community care. My Secretary of State proposes to announce a similar phased implementation for Scotland by way of a written answer on Wednesday and I attach a draft of his proposed reply.

I would be grateful if you and those to whom this letter is copied could let me have any comments by the end of today. A copy of this letter goes to Barry Potter (No 10), Philip Ward (DOE), Stephen Williams (Wales), Stephen Leach (Northern Ireland), Stuart Lord (DSS) and Andy McKeon (Health).

J D Gallagher

J D GALLAGHER
Private Secretary

DRAFT WRITTEN ANSWER

Question

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, what are his plans for the implementation of the community care policies set out in the White Paper "Caring for People".

Answer

We are fully committed to the policies set out in the White Paper "Caring for People" which are designed to improve social care services for vulnerable people. However, we have decided that it has become necessary to phase in the proposals in the White Paper. This is to allow a fuller preparation for the major shift in financial responsibility and the organisational changes required and in particular to avoid local authorities imposing an excessive burden on their community chargepayers. The arrangements for Scotland will be as follows.

On 1 April 1991 I will introduce the requirements for local authorities to set up the new arm's length inspection units for residential homes and the new complaints procedures. I will also introduce the new specific grant to accelerate the development of community services for people with a mental illness. The development of better services in the community for this group in particular is an important objective of our community care policy. In the first year grant of £3 million will be available to meet 75% of the costs of providing more community services for the mentally ill. We are already providing grants under existing powers for voluntary bodies providing services in the important field of drug and alcohol abuse and this will continue.

Local authorities and Health Boards have already made a valuable start on the planning and development work required for community care and I would want this momentum to be maintained. I would also want authorities to continue with the important task of staff training to which the new course on community care at Dundee University is designed to meet. This will lead to the next phase of implementation on 1 April 1992 when I intend to implement the new community care planning arrangements. Development work will continue in 1992 and the final phase will be the implementation of the new income support and housing

benefit arrangements on 1 April 1993. Until then the present social security arrangements for those in private and voluntary residential and nursing homes will continue.

The financial implications of these proposals for 1991-92 will be taken into account in the local authority settlement which I intend to announce next week.

The changes set out in the White Paper involve a substantial and complex task for local authorities. I am sure that phasing in the arrangements give more time to all concerned - local authorities, health boards, the voluntary and private sectors - to co-operate in preparation. It will enable the process to be more effectively managed.

