



Sent to: Directors of Social Work
Directors of Finance

Cc: Chief Executives

4 December 2008

Dear colleague,

CONCORDAT COMMITMENT: EXTRA RESPITE WEEKS

This joint letter sets out the arrangements which have been agreed between COSLA and the Scottish Government for the delivery of the Concordat commitment on extra respite weeks.

The Concordat contains a specified commitment to make progress towards delivering 10,000 extra respite weeks per annum at home and in care homes. The commitment should be interpreted as embracing respite 'at home and in care settings' rather than just 'care homes', as long as the provision falls within the Audit Scotland Performance Indicator (PI) definitions.

When discussing the implementation of the commitment, COSLA indicated that, taking account of all the relevant factors, a 5 year delivery period had been envisaged. Scottish Ministers, however, wished to enable local authorities to deliver the commitment in full by 2010-11. **Consequently it was agreed that additional resources would be made available through the local government finance settlement of £1.37m in 2009-10 and £2.82m in 2010-11.** This agreement was reached following discussion between the Scottish Government, ADSW and COSLA.

In order to measure progress on the commitment, COSLA and the Scottish Government have agreed that the baseline for comparison will be the Audit Scotland respite SPI figures for 2007-08.

The commitment is expressed in terms of extra weeks, whereas the SPI separately measures the number of respite nights and the number of daytime respite hours. Consequently it has been necessary to establish a basis for counting the provision of respite solely in terms of weeks. This will be done as follows:-

- 7 respite nights will count as one respite week.
- 52.5 daytime respite hours will count as one respite week.

The reason for the 52.5 hour figure above is that, on the basis of average costs, that amount of daytime respite costs about the same as 7 respite nights. Consequently, when considering the delivery of the additional respite weeks, i.e. the distribution of daytime and overnight respite, local authorities will be able to make their decisions based on users' and carers' needs and local priorities, without being influenced by the cost of the different forms of provision.

COSLA officials will continue to liaise with you regarding the arrangements for collecting information to monitor the delivery of the commitment. This process has already started through engagement with SOLACE and Council Leaders.

We take the opportunity of this letter also to draw your attention to the joint Guidance on Short Breaks (respite) CCD 4/2008 issued on 28 November. Local authorities may wish to consider this guidance when planning their respite services.

Yours sincerely,

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