

SUBMISSION FROM PAULINE M CAMERON

1. First of all I would like to thank Mr O' Donnell for all his work on the Autism (Scotland) Bill.
2. I am the parent of a young man of 18, who is severely autistic. We seem to have been talking about "integrated working" and "multi-disciplinary services" for the past 18 years. I have yet to see evidence of any of this. This Bill would hopefully make integrated working the "norm", and not the exception.
3. The Scottish Government has a duty to ensure that people with autism are not so disadvantaged in our society. If this Bill is supported, then it will at least be a major step forward.
4. I am presently trying to support my son through the transition from children's services to adult services. It is a terrifying ordeal.
5. Personally, I do not feel that social services have any understanding of what "stakeholder involvement" means.
6. Anyone who has any input into the life of an autistic person, especially staff in social services should have adequate training in autism spectrum disorders (ASD). How can they possibly make any decisions when they have so little knowledge of the condition and the effects it has on everyday life for both the young person and their family?
7. I also believe that education services should provide lifelong learning opportunities for young people with autism. The way things stand, they seem to be able to "wash their hands" of young autistic adults once they get to 18, even if their cognitive understanding is of a young child.
8. Certainly, I believe that local services/authorities need more guidance in supporting people with ASD. I also feel they should be given definite "guidance"/training in how to "listen" to people on the spectrum and their families.

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