

# Reject paper 6: Glasgow deserves better



Tomorrow, Glasgow’s senior social work officials ask our elected members to give public approval to a system that is failing disabled people, violating our rights and hampering our city’s progress towards a fairer, thriving future.

The IJB refused to approve the ‘Resource Allocations’ paper in June, over concerns that equalities impacts had not been considered, and that a ‘cap’ on budgets could lead to forced institutionalisation. GDA believes that **these very real concerns have not been adequately addressed.**

For the first time, Glasgow Social Work’s **austerity-driven decision-making and its impacts on human rights** have been made transparent, requiring public approval. Meanwhile a National dialogue has begun to look at National interventions to help ease the social care crisis and protect rights.

## Reject paper 6: take a stand for human rights

“Some people will have to move house because of these proposals”  
 “We are past the point now where people can expect to live independently in their own homes.”  
 “We can’t afford human rights.”  
 Senior social work officers, recent public conversation

GDA members are calling on our IJB elected representatives **to seize this timely opportunity:**

- ✓ **Reject this paper - Take a stand for human rights**
- ✓ **Create conditions to open up collaboration for a better solution**
- ✓ **Give strength to the belief that as a city we can and we must do better.**

Not only do Glasgow’s 150,000 disabled people deserve better – our city’s future depends on considered collaboration, to dismantle the barriers and inequalities that keep disabled people shut out of our communities, leaving our talents and contributions untapped.

To strengthen our communities, improve health and wellbeing, and shift the focus of care from reactive to preventative, **Social Care needs more investment, not less. Tomorrow’s IJB is an essential opportunity to advance that conversation.**

As Cllr Mhairi Hunter heard directly from 150 GDA members last month, the cumulative impact of ongoing cuts to the fabric of our Social Care system has eroded many people’s hopes of achieving wellbeing, independence, living a life, or fulfilling their potential.

**Rejecting paper 6 would create a dialogue which could restore that hope .**

A survey of 150 GDA members at our Social Care Listening Event showed:

<b>89%</b>	do not get the support they need to stay safe and well.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “I am homeless and couch surfing. I have had 2 calls from social worker in 10 months, and they do not take a suicidal statement seriously. Only GDA check on my wellbeing.”</li> <li>- “Only support I've ever had is from GDA and I tried everywhere”</li> <li>- “I'd be completely invisible in my community if it wasn't for GDA taking an interest in me and my potential as a citizen of Glasgow.”</li> <li>- “The only time I feel respected is at GDA.”</li> <li>- “I used to get social care but the process was a constant stress and "help" was useless. You felt as if you were being a burden.”</li> </ul>
<b>92%</b>	do not get the support they need to be included in the community.	
<b>84%</b>	do not feel valued as part of society.	
<b>&gt;30%</b>	feel they are treated with dignity and respect when accessing services.	
<b>82%</b>	of those who do get social care rated it average, poor or very poor.	

## Have the IJB's concerns been addressed?

- Concerns that the policy is explicitly finance-driven have been answered by '**more neutral wording**'. **This does not change facts** and indeed detracts from the transparency intended: Assessments of care needs in Glasgow are driven by resource cuts, and concealing this **hampers the honest dialogue we need** to reach solutions.

## Push for a real EQIA

- An EQIA has been completed with **no direct involvement of disabled people's organisations**, instead drawing figures from a 2016 ONS survey. The EQIA claims 'voices and experiences of service users will be central to the reforms' yet the EQIA process itself failed to engage with a huge body of localised expertise i.e. GDA's 4500 members and our recent and ongoing research and engagement. This is in stark contrast to previous good practice whereby GDA was directly involved in drafting the Disability Strategy Map for the HSCP Plan 2016-19.
- The EQIA makes generalised mention of the UNCRPD but **fails to reference** what is clearly the most relevant provision in the Convention: **article 19 regarding social care and independent living**. Throughout the policy engagement disabled people have highlighted that this right is under significant threat from the policy – its omission from the EQIA is a concerning oversight.
- Despite extensive concerns voiced by disabled people about impacts on their rights and equality, as well as hard evidence that disabled people's **right to choose where they live and with whom is under significant threat from this policy** the policy is assessed in this EQIA as '**highly likely**' to have positive impacts on equality for all protected groups.
- **The risk of forced institutionalisation** is not acknowledged as an infringement on rights under the UN Convention, but rather is **described in Paper 6 as potentially 'unsettling'**. The only mitigating actions mentioned are for staff to be 'sensitive' to what constitutes a breach of human rights.
- The EQIA identifies risk related only to socio-economic disadvantage, failing to consider the policy's impact on disabled people's inequality in relation to the rest of the population eg regarding the choice and control which non-disabled people take for granted. What Works Scotland warns that failure to consider specific barriers facing disabled people will widen inequality.
- The EQIA and the policy confuse 'Equity' with Equality: 'Equalization' has been used to pit disabled people against each other in competition for increasingly scarce social care resources. Rather than accepting that resources are failing to meet real needs, individuals' needs are denied and erased. Disabled people are experiencing similar attitudes and approaches across Social Care in Glasgow and DWP benefits assessments, where resource constraints lead to people's needs being minimised, disbelieved and denied. This systemic "abuse of power has acute psychological impacts on disabled people.
- For Glasgow's public agencies to fulfil their duties to eliminate discrimination, foster good relations and uphold rights to choice and control, living independently and being included in the community, **urgent positive action is needed**. Approving paper 6 would send the message that Glasgow's aspirations for our disabled citizens are so low that we are willing to abandon rights and regress to institutionalization. A better solution must be reached by opening up dialogue about adequate resourcing of our Social Care system, as an investment in prevention, an investment in our citizens and a stronger, healthier and thriving Glasgow.