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Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	1 December 2016
Report By:	Head of Legal & Property Services	Report No:	RMcG/LP/138/16
Contact Officer:	Rona McGhee	Contact No:	01475 712113
Subject:	Frank's Law – Request by Councillor McCabe		

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask the Council to consider a request from Councillor McCabe.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Councillor McCabe has requested that the Council consider supporting the campaign by Mrs Amanda Kopel for Frank's Law for the extension of free personal care for those under the age of 65 who require it. A copy of the email from Mrs Kopel is attached (APPENDIX).

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the Council consider the request from Councillor McCabe.

**Gerard Malone**  
Head of Legal & Property Services

## APPENDIX

Dear Councillor McCabe

My name is Amanda Kopel and I am campaigning for Frank's Law, free care for under 65s who need it

I launched this national appeal after my husband Frank Kopel, a popular footballer in his youth, developed dementia at the age of 59. Our local council gave vital support in a local day centre but we had to pay for all the care he got because he was not old enough. In 2014, shortly after his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, Frank died.

Instead of enjoying the last of Frank's years together, we had to struggle to get by paying his charges and eventually selling his football mementos and medals to pay the mortgage. If Frank had been over 65 when he developed dementia, most of his care would have been free.

We have been winning support from thousands of people all over Scotland who can see the injustice of this type of treatment of people under 65 whether it is because of dementia, motor neurones disease, Parkinson or other long term conditions. As far back as 2001 when free personal care for older people was introduced, the Scottish Government said that it could be extended to the under 65s if people wanted it.

Now 5 councils have passed motions calling on the Scottish Government to take action on Frank's Law. Aberdeenshire, Angus, Fife, Dundee and the latest one, Falkirk. I would like to ask you to consider putting up a similar motion to your next council meeting.

The motion passed by Falkirk read:

- Council notes that, currently, legislation enables personal care to be provide free for people in Scotland aged over 65, provided they are assessed as needing it.
- Of the 85,807 dementia sufferers in Scotland 3,201 are under the age of 65 and therefore not entitles to the help.
- Council commends the campaign by Mrs Amanda Kopel - "Frank's Law" - to request that the Scottish Government extends free personal care to anyone under the age of 65 who requires such care for their dementia, motor neurone disease, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, cancer, progressive supranuclear palsy (or any other degenerative brain disease).
- Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to the First Minister requesting her to consider the introduction of a "Frank's Law" so that free personal care is extended to under 65s as set out above.

If you would like to talk about this, you can email me on [haisteramal4@btinternet.com](mailto:haisteramal4@btinternet.com) . Its not easy for me to travel to every part of the country but if it would help I might be able to come along and speak as I have done at a number of councils already.

Yours Sincerely

Amanda Kopel