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Scottish Labour recognises the importance of a strong voluntary sector in our plans to decentralise powers and democratise the economy.

Communities require strong advocates independent of government and we feel that there should never be a link between funding to acquiescence in government policy.

We will support a continued partnership approach between the government, charities, social enterprises and other sectors, modernise charity law, strengthen governance and provide longer-term financing for projects delivered by the voluntary sector. We support 'Volunteering for All' outcomes and will promote employer engagement with awards and training, as well as support for community organising.

We have presented detailed proposals for a National Care Service, something we have been campaigning on for a long time and I believe that the pandemic has exposed the crisis in social care and made this urgent. Profit must be removed and workers rights must be respected, we will never provide the standard of care we want by paying people minimum wage on zero-hours contracts. Fundamentally we need dignity for users and dignity for workers.

I agree that more action is needed to tackle and eliminate child poverty and the growing number of children living in poverty in Scotland shows that the current strategy is not working. I think we need a minimum income guarantee and to reform the social security system to help rather than humiliate and we can only eliminate child poverty by eliminating poverty for everyone and I am concerned that at times there is too much compartmentalization of poverty itself. When the majority of children in poverty live in families with working parents our system is failing and we need broad, overarching strategies to deal with this. I believe that empowering communities also need proper local government funding for community organisations and I would like to see an alternative to the current "bidding" system operated by councils and a what can appear as a less than transparent way in which decisions are made to allocate funding.