

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

The Carer's Assessment: Carer's Support Plan

Question 1: Should we change the name of the carer's assessment to the Carer's Support Plan?

Yes

No

Comments: We support the principle of changing the title, if this is the desired wish of carers. We are aware that many carers do not wish to be considered as requiring an assessment of their caring ability.

Question 2: Should we remove the substantial and regular test so that all carers will be eligible for the Carer's Support Plan?

Yes

No

Comments: We support this as we currently respond to requests from any carer who requires an assessment. This enables us to be flexible about the variety of caring situations which exist.

Question 3: Should we remove that part of the existing carer assessment process whereby the cared-for person is a person for whom the local authority must or may provide community care services/children's services?

Yes

No

Comments: We would support this suggestion given that carers may be receiving support from other services such as Health or Third sector or may in fact be receiving no services but still have an entitlement to an assessment in their own right.

Question 4: Should we introduce two routes through to the Carer's Support Plan – at the carer's request and by the local authority making an offer?

Yes

No

Comments: We currently operate this process enabling carers to access assessments by request and we have more recently introduced Self Assessment for carers, as well as revisiting the full carers assessment for SDS purposes.

Question 5: Should we remove from statute the wording about the carer's ability to provide care?

Yes

No

Comments: We would support this suggestion, as we do not consider this to be the purpose of the assessment. However we recognise that carers should be encouraged to plan ahead for the time, when they may be no longer be in a position to provide support.

Question 6: Should we introduce a duty for local authorities to inform the carer of the length of time it is likely to take to receive the Carer's Support Plan and if it exceeds this time, to be advised of the reasons?

Yes

No

Comments: This would seem a reasonable expectation for carers to have.

Question 7: How significant an issue is portability of assessment for service users and carers?

Comments: This has not been a significant issue for us.

Question 8: Should the Scottish Government and COSLA with relevant interests work together to take forward improvements to the portability of assessment?

Yes

No

Comments: Guidance would be helpful in this area.

Information and Advice

Question 9: Should we introduce a duty for local authorities to establish and maintain a service for providing people with information and advice relating to the Carer's Support Plan and support for carers and young carers?

Yes

No

Comments: We currently have a Carer Strategy, which outlines actions around information and advice and other forms of Carer Support. This Strategy links to the NHS Carer Information Strategy and do not see the need for a duty to be introduced.

Question 10: Should we repeal section 12 of the Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 2002 about the submission of Carer information Strategies to Scottish Ministers, subject to reassurances, which are subject in turn to Spending Review decisions, about the continuation of funding to Health Boards for support to carers and young carers?

Yes

No

Comments: We would support the continuation to monitor the spend, which could be delegated to Integrated Bodies in the future.

Support to Carers (other than information and advice)

Question 11: Should we introduce a duty to support carers and young carers, linked to an eligibility framework?

Yes

No

Comments: Decision regards eligibility criteria could be decided at a local level without the introduction of a duty to link these.

Question 12: Alternatively, should we retain the existing discretionary power to support carers and young carers?

Yes

No

Comments: We would consider that there is more flexibility for carers in deciding this at a local level, which enables us to take a broader approach.

Question 13: Should we introduce a duty to provide short breaks?

Yes

No

Comments: We already provide a range of mechanisms for providing short breaks, which we believe provides a flexible approach for carers.

Stages and Transitions

Question 14: Should we issue statutory guidance on the Carer's Support Plan which will include guidance for those undertaking the Carer's Support Plan on managing stages of caring? This would apply to adult carers only. (For young carers, practice guidance will be developed to support management of a Child's Plan through the stages of caring).

Yes

No

Comments: We do not consider this to be necessary as arrangements are in place for transition to be managed from one service to another.

Question 15: Should new carers' legislation provide for young carers to have a Carer's Support Plan if they seem likely to become an adult carer? Any agreed support recorded in the Carer's Support Plan would be put in place after the young carer becomes a (young) adult carer.

Yes

No

Comments: We would support this approach.

Carer Involvement

Question 16: Should there be carer involvement in the planning, shaping and delivery of services for the people they care for and support for carers in areas outwith the scope of integration?

Yes

No

Comments: Yes we would support this principle.

Question 17: Should we make provision for the involvement of carers' organisations in the planning, shaping and delivery of services and support falling outwith the scope of integration?

Yes

No

Comments: We would support the principle

Question 18: Should we establish a principle about carer and young carer involvement in care planning for service users (subject to consent) and support for themselves in areas not covered in existing legislation?

Yes

No

Comments: We would support this principle

Question 19: What are your views on making provision for young carer involvement in the planning, shaping and delivery of services for cared-for people and support for young carers?

Comments: We actively support young carers in the planning, shaping and delivery of services for cared for person

Planning and Delivery

Question 20: Should we introduce statutory provision to the effect that a local authority and each relevant Health Board must collaborate and involve relevant organisations and carers in the development of local carers strategies which must be kept under review and updated every three years?

Yes

No

Comments: We already involve carers and carer organisations in the development oft the Strategy

Question 21: Should we introduce statutory provision to the effect that local authorities with Health Boards must take steps to ensure, in so far as is reasonably practicable, that a sufficient range of services is available for meeting the needs for support to carers and young carers in the area?

Yes

No

Comments: We do think that this will be necessary.

Identification

Question 22: Should there be no legislative provision for GPs or local authorities to maintain a Carers Register in order to support the identification of carers?

Yes

No

Comments: Given that GP service is a universal service it is an effective way to identify carers

Question 23: Should the Scottish Government ensure that good practice is widely spread amongst Health Boards about the proactive use of Registers of Carers within GP practices?

Yes

No

Comments: This would be important to ensure effective and proactive use of GP Carer Registers.

Question 24: Should the Scottish Government ask Health Boards to monitor compliance with the core contractual elements of the GP contract?

Yes

No

Comments: This would be particularly helpful for carers.

Carer and Cared-for Person(s) in Different Local Authority Areas

Question 25: What are the views of respondents on the lead local authority for undertaking the Carer's Support Plan and agreeing support to the carer where the carer lives in a different local authority area to the cared-for person(s)?

Comments: We would support the principle of conducting Carers Support Plans, whilst the supported person lives in another authority's area.

Question 26: What are the views of respondents on which local authority should cover the costs of support to the carer in these circumstances?

Comments: We would support a negotiated approach with the appropriate authorities on this.

Question 27: Should the Scottish Government with COSLA produce guidance for local authorities?

Yes

No

Comments: We would support a negotiated approach on this.