

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: **this is already the case in West Dunbartonshire.**

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: **as there is nothing to define "substantial and regular" it can be confusing for both carers and staff. Removing the substantial and regular test will allow assessments to be offered to carers who may only require low level support. It is often the low level interventions which have a preventative effect and prevent crisis at a later stage. One assessment should be reflective of the level of need. However, if all carers**

are to be eligible for an assessment, how will this increase in demand be met?

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: At present it has the potential to exclude carers and creates a barrier to accessing support.

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: It should be extended to NHS and integrated services also.

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

Yes

No

Comments: Assessment should be about their capacity and willingness to continue caring and how that can be supported and not about their ability.

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: However, providing this information would not solve the problem as in many areas the carer is waiting a considerable length of time for an assessment. Perhaps the introduction of a maximum waiting time should be considered.

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

Comments: It has not presented as a significant issue in our experience.

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:

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: **There should not be a need to introduce new services as most LA areas already have a carers' service. However, the impact of this on those services would need to be considered as well as how they will be continue to be supported and funded.**

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: **This would present a risk to the funding for provision of information and support to carers by Health Boards. Since the introduction of CIS, Carer organisations across Scotland have worked hard to influence practice and engage with health staff. There is a real risk that these achievements would be lost.**

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: **A national eligibility framework would work better as it would create equity and eliminate any variations across Scotland. It's a complex area and tensions such as creating equity vs setting the criteria too high need to be debated so that carers can still access preventative support.**

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

Yes

No

Comments:

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

Yes

No

Comments: Presumably it was linked to an eligibility criteria. How would this be funded?

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: Statutory guidance would be useful.

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: Transition from young carer to adult carer should be made as easy as possible. Young adult carers 18-25 often go unsupported as services are not age appropriate.

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: If carers are to be seen as equal partners, it is important that there are mechanisms in place which allow them to be part of the planning of services.

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: The partnership between West Dunbartonshire Council and Carers of West Dunbartonshire evidences that the involvement of Carer organisations in planning and shaping services is effective.

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:

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: **Yes, but it must be age appropriate.**

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: **Local strategies are useful *if* they are produced in partnership with all local agencies which provide carer support, set out a clear plan of how carers will be supported and reflect the particular needs of the local area. Consideration needs to be given to the production of Young Carers Strategies (which at present is not compulsory) either as a distinct document or as part of a carers 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:

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: **There should be legislative provision. A coding system already exists to support this. However, a register will only be effective if carers feel that being on it is**

meaningful and that it represents more than just collecting data. There should be provision for an "action" once the carer is placed on the register i.e. referral to carer services.

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:

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

Yes

No

Comments: **GPs should be required to report annually in relation to their contracts and in turn each HB to the Scottish Government. Reporting should include number of carers identified, referrals made for support.**

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: **Collaboration between the LA is required. Caring at a distance is likely to increase due to changing family structures. Incorporating long journeys into the caring role risks greater stress and the potential for crisis.**

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: **Consideration should be given to the LA in which the Carer lives, carrying out the assessment and a mechanism for costs to be recouped being introduced? This would seem to be a more practical approach.**

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

Yes

No

Comments: **Guidance should produce equity and clarity across local authority areas and more importantly avoid any additional stress on the carer. It is often the carer who is expected to navigate their way through the complexities of statutory services. Any potential for an increase in bureaucracy should be avoided.**