

## 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:

The support plans needs to clearly articulate the needs and the rights of the carers and be focused on the carer rather than the cared for person. It is important that there is a shared understanding between different disciplines and different agencies of the meaning and importance of the plan.

We welcome the suggestion that there should be an increase in the number of agencies (thinking particularly of 3<sup>rd</sup> sector) who undertake the support plans.

We recognise that this would require resources, both in terms of developing the plans as well as service provision, if that was identified as part of the plan

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:

The ability to put in preventative measures to support carers *prior* to a crisis arising will be much easier if the current restrictions are removed. We acknowledge that for some groups of carers, thinking particularly of those caring for someone with a mental health problem that the level of support they provide is often variable and fluctuates.

However, we also recognise that potentially the development of a carer's support plan may highlight the tension of different views between the carer and the cared for person, therefore some form of mediation would also needed to be considered. We recognise that there will resource implications around this change.

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:

See above around the need for preventative services to support the carer prior to a crisis arising. The cared for person may not meet the eligibility criteria for local authority services (particularly as thresholds increase) and yet a small investment of support for the carer, would enable them to continue caring longer and potentially reduce the need for services from statutory providers. For people with a mental health problem, they often do not qualify (or want) services from the local authority.

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:

This seems no different to the current situation of accessing a carers' assessment where a carer can request an assessment and/or be offered one by the Local Authority.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

We welcome a shift towards an outcomes based approach as defined by the carer

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:

We welcome the proposal that carers should be informed of the length of time they will have to wait for an assessment.

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

Comments:

We recognise that transitions, whether it is geographical or between services, is often identified as being a particular stressful time for carers. Carers input may alter (increase or decrease) and a review of their support arrangements is welcomed

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:

Yes

## 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:

Information should be more than a leaflet – there needs to be a conversation and making appropriate referrals if consent is given by the carer, rather than being passed 'from pillar to post'

This duty should extend to include NHS Boards and GPs.

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: Ring fenced funding has been a vital support to carers via the projects that have been funded. It is the ring fencing of funds that is important, rather than who administers it.

### **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:  
We welcome a duty to support carers through a consistent and uniform eligibility criteria, recognising the need for support that prevents crisis's arising

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

Yes

No

Comments:  
No – this has had led to wide variation in the support that is offered. It is hoped that the guidance issued around the Child's Plan (arising from the Children and Young People's bill) will help manage the stages around caring for the young carer

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

Yes

No

Comments:  
We recognise the tension when a cared for person refuses a short break, even when it would benefit the cared for person  
Provision of short breaks provision should be part of the carer support plan and linked to the eligibility framework

### **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: It is essential that there are linkages between the plans for children and young people to ensure vital information is not missed

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:  
Yes

### **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:  
Carers should be involved in every stage possible  
Collective advocacy can promote and enhance carer involvement

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:  
Yes

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:  
Carers frequently do not feel that they are 'equal partners in care'. It is often difficult for carers to engage with health and social care services given the complexity of these organisations.

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 welcome young carers being involved, recognising that their needs differ significantly from adult carers. Young carers should be supported through this process however and may need specialised support to help them understand the full impact and consequences that being involved in decisions about planning someone's care can bring

### 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 need to reflect both strategic priorities for Health Boards and Local Authorities as well as locally identified needs and gaps which carers and carers organizations identify

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:

Yes

### 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:

We feel there are benefits of registers. GPs and other members of the primary health care team (PHCT) are often the first and only point of contact for carers. Carers sees GPs as an important source of help. Members of the PHCT are in an

ideal position to note the presence of a carer, recognise and validate them and point them in the direction of information and services.

Training should be included to highlight how young a young carer can be and this could link into the pilots of the young carers identification card, if the pilots are successful.

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:

Registers should be more than simply a collection of data and should a means of identifying carers with mechanisms for regular reviews of carers health needs and signposting of other forms of support

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

Yes

No

Comments:

NHS Lothian has already put in monitoring mechanisms

### **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:

It should be the cared for person's local authority who leads for the carer assessment. However, whichever authority develops the plan – there should be an explicit and transparent process for deciding who does it.

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:

Costs should be spilt 50:50

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

Yes

No

Comments: