

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 new name of Carer's Support Plan indicates that it is about the whole journey of assessment and the support then put in place, rather than just focusing on the narrower assessment aspect. This reflects a more positive and holistic approach to assessing and providing a service for carers.

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: *this question relates only to adult carers.*

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: This may leave carers and cared for people in a very vulnerable position. If no support is asked for or required then that is the choice of the carer. There are a small number of children who are carers and are pre-school age. These Children are identified through health services.

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: Offers flexibility and maximises potential uptake of support.

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

Yes

No

Comments: An outcomes based approach should provide a fuller and more individualised support plan.

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 support all parties involved and complies with good practice and it would also support management of expectations of care.

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

Comments: It is very important that there is a shared language and understanding of all involved. In children and young people's services across Perth and Kinross GIRFEC is the basis of all assessment which gives a common understanding and approach.

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: In Children's Services the use of GIRFEC gives a common language and focus on outcomes for all assessments and plans

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: This would be a valuable service for adult and young carers and could improve support and reduce crisis management of situations. Although this is provided elsewhere for young carers locally, through PKAVS Young Carers' Project, it would seem important to have a duty for local authorities to maximise impact.

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: Funding for young carers should follow services.

Support to Carers (other than information and advice)

Question 9: Should we introduce a duty to support carers and young carers, linked to an eligibility framework?

Yes

No

Comments: This would improve the identification and support of young carers, particularly in authorities where focused work with young carers is not taking place, Statutory duties to intervene may have implications over an individual's sense of responsibility. Wellbeing needs are not always easily defined but should be included in relation to eligibility.

Question 10: Alternatively, should we retain the existing discretionary power to support carers and young carers?

Yes

No

Comments: Paragraph 14 on p22 seems to view this as an addition to, not 'alternatively'. If this is made a duty then the discretion should be retained.

Question 11: Should we introduce a duty to provide short breaks?

Yes

No

Comments: This may be very difficult for authorities to support financially however there is clear evidence of the positive impact of short breaks for carers.

Stages and Transitions

Question 12: 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: Relevant to adult carers only

Question 13: 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 can be a very difficult time and if this can be supported to ease any difficulties for young carers moving into adult carers this would greatly reduce the stress involved for all involved. There are still too many practical challenges for a seamless transition into adulthood and this should work as a safeguard.

Carer Involvement

Question 14: 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: This would ensure that the experiences of carers and young carers are taken into account and appropriate, relevant services are developed. This principle should apply to carers as it applies to any other young people.

Question 15: 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: As above at question 14 – the views should be taken into consideration and given meaningful recognition.

Question 16: 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: Due to the very individual nature of each case there may well be situations which arise which are not covered within the existing legislation. This should of course be an optional choice, so as not to be in any way additionally

burdensome and should be subject to some level of consideration about the welfare of the child or young person.

Question 17: 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: Their involvement and contribution is extremely important and should be included in action plans/strategy development process etc in relation to services for cared for people and support for young carers.

Planning and Delivery

Question 18: 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: The consultation indicated that although this is already happening in some authorities (as within Perth and Kinross) the practice is not in place in others. Within Perth & Kinross our Young Carers' Strategy has benefited from multiagency working, particularly with NHS and PKAVs. In order to improve outcomes for young carers on going cooperative working with agencies and carers is critical and this should be reflected within a local strategy.

Question 19: 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: This would improve the outcomes for all carers and ensure that young carers are not missing out on opportunities and support they could access. This would help them to support the person they are caring for but will also help them to achieve their own personal aims and potential.

Identification

Question 20: 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: However, in an ideal situation it would be very beneficial for GPs to share information with local authorities as it could improve the support and identification of young carers. It would be very helpful for education services/schools to be aware of children who have caring roles as support can be targeted either directly or indirectly through staff development and awareness raising.

Question 21: 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 can only be beneficial and would hopefully encourage more GPs to become involved with good practice.

Question 22: Should the Scottish Government ask Health Boards to monitor compliance with the core contractual elements of the GP contract?

Yes

No

Comments: Monitoring by Health Boards would identify any areas of non-compliance.

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

Question 23: 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: This is similar to the situation of Looked after Children and host authorities, which is supported by inter authority agreements and a sharing of costs. National Guidance and support would be required for this to work in order to ensure consistency across all authorities.

Question 24: What are the views of respondents on which local authority should cover the costs of support to the carer in these circumstances?

Comments: After consideration we would suggest that the cared for person should be supported by their own authority and the Carer costs should be shared by both authorities.

Question 25: Should the Scottish Government with COSLA produce guidance for local authorities?

Yes

No

Comments: Guidelines would be important to ensure clarity and would potentially save time and money for all local authorities involved.