

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 term "Support Plan" is more empowering and has a better ring to it than "assessment". Assessment implies that a check is being made on how well carers are carrying out their role.

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: Giving every carer the right to a Support Plan encourages support at as early a stage as possible and supports the early intervention and prevention approach. This may have resource implications but not necessarily financial resources – it could impact on staff capacity – either Third Sector or public sector depending on who is providing assistance with Support Planning where this is required.

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 comments under 2 above

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: Whilst carers should be able to initiate a Carers Support Plan the question implies there will only be two routes – either the local authority or the carer. Making carers aware of their right to a Carers Support Plan should be everyone's business.

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

Yes

No

Comments: The word "ability" has a lot of different connotations – it could sound as though a carer has to go through some form of "test" and perhaps puts some carers off and adds to the number of "hidden" carers. The word is disempowering. It is however important to understand the *circumstances* in which a carer is coping – whether they themselves have medical conditions which impact on their ability to cope with the caring role. A pragmatic approach is required.

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: If it is the local authority which is taking responsibility for this.

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

Comments: This question is part of a much wider agenda than just carers. There are issues across not just Scotland but the UK when people move from one area to another. This question links to other responses – see Q25 - 27

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: If portability of assessments is agreed although consideration of all circumstances needs to be taken into account and there are particular challenges for Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders where it is common for carers to live just over the border in England from where the cared for person lives in Scotland.

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 answer is qualified by saying that the local authority should have a duty to "*ensure appropriate information and advice services are available*" as these types of services might be more appropriately provided through contracting

with a Third Sector organisation for example.

It is also thought it would be useful to set out the minimum requirements for such services.

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: Carer Information Strategies will presumably be the responsibility of the Integrated Health and Social Care Joint Boards?

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: The view is that eligibility frameworks are needed to establish duties to provide *financial* support to carers given the continued pressures on budgets. However eligibility frameworks should not come into play for lower level supports and signposting – cross reference Q 2

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: Greater clarity is needed on the definition of a short break.

We know from support provided to carers through the Time to Live Fund that carers get a lot of benefit from taking a short break.

However, without substantial increases in funding it is felt the introduction of a “duty” would be unrealistic and impact hugely on social work budgets. At the very least this would need to be based on an eligibility framework but even then just taking the number of carers in D&G providing more than 50 hours per week – if

each of these was given £250 towards a short break this would cost over £1m.

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:

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:

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: However involving carers needs to take into account how carers need to be supported to allow them to be involved.

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: This is essential

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: Although it is felt there could be conflicting legislation around some of this and careful consideration needs to be given to this therefore. It is essential that young carers are afforded all the protection they might need in carrying out their caring role.

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: Young carers have particular needs and issues and young carers are in the best position to make these known.

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: ...or, going forward the Integrated Joint Board

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: Although these might not all be provided by either the local authority of Health Board.

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: Being "carer aware" is everybody's business.

Currently registers of carers might be held by a variety of organisations, including GPs but it is not clear how these are established or maintained or what the purpose of these registers is.

It is essential that carers are given the opportunity to agree or disagree with their name being held on such a register and it is also essential that registers are kept

up to date if they are produced.

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: If it is felt these are still needed

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

Yes

No

Comments:

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 is felt the lead authority for the Carer Support Plan should be the one where the carer resides rather than the one where the cared-for person resides. Bearing in mind that the point of Carer Support Plans is, in part, to provide early intervention and prevention and to help in signposting carers to relevant organisations that might be able to provide support, knowledge of local services is important.

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: The local authority where the carer resides rather than the one where the cared-for person resides. Otherwise, if different eligibility criteria exist between different local authorities this could lead to different responses to different carers in the same local authority area and might cause confusion.

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

Yes

No

Comments: This whole area is fraught with difficulties – not just in relation to carers but in other situations as well such as “Ordinary Residency”

For information, the list of organisations represented on the OPCG contributing to this response is given below:

Age Scotland, D&G Access Panel, D&G Over 50s Group, Dalbeattie Day Centre, Dumfries Day Centre, Langholm Day Centre, Loreburn Retirement Group, The Food Train, User and Carer Involvement, United Retired Members Association, University of the Third Age, Royal Voluntary Service

Other organisations are represented on OPCG but were unable to attend the meeting at which the consultation responses were agreed.