

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:

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:

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:

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:

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

Yes

No

Comments: If the wording was to refer to 'willingness' rather than 'ability' to continue caring, it would lead to confusion. Most carers who wish to either limit or discontinue their caring role do so out of necessity in order to preserve their own

mental/physical health and would therefore not see this as a choice, which 'willingness' may imply it is.

If there was reference to the carer's own mental and physical health this may help clarify any misperception.

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:

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

Comments: Having a standardised format for the assessment will not only help with cross border portability but will mean greater consistency of assessments. Portability itself is not a significant issue, but standardisation is.

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: Having one central point of contact for information and advice about relevant services to carers is crucial. It is however also important that this information is kept up to date, which is virtually impossible when done through literature. A dedicated individual within each local authority who acted as this point of contact would be the ideal solution since they could be dedicated to this role without any joint responsibility for actually providing any of the services themselves. This person may also have responsibility for carrying out carers' assessments, as they would be best placed to advise on what other services and supports are available in the community. This point of contact could also be responsible for the maintenance of any online/social media information on the topic, and could serve as an information point for other professionals.

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: Although this provision may become redundant with the imminent integration, we would not be comfortable supporting its repeal until such time as more concrete plans and provisions are made for the integration process at a local level.

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:

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: Comments: Support for carers should include reference to access to independent advocacy

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: Having a standardised format for the assessment will not only help with cross border portability but will mean greater consistency of assessments. The current system, where each local authority designs their own format of assessment, means that some are inevitably much more detailed and comprehensive than others. Assessing workers need to be able to give prompt questions and examples to carers in order to get a fuller picture of their caring role. Not everyone knows what constitutes 'personal care' or 'transferring weight' and may need time beforehand to prepare for the assessment. Having one national format and accompanying guidance notes for workers (to be used at the time) and carers (to be sent out in advance of assessment) would produce the most qualitative information of their role. It would also be helpful for the role of advocacy in helping a carer prepare for their assessment to be recognised in the guidance, as it is expected provision of this service will increase in the future.

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:

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, but it should be noted that registered Carers Centre's are not the only appropriate organisations to involve. A range of third sector services support carers and those they care for, and their input would be valuable.

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: It is vital that carers views are taken into account, alongside the views of those they care for. Independent Advocacy can help to ensure that all who wish to have their views heard can be supported to do so.

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:

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: This should be a range of carers and staff from different organisations, not just confined to carers centres.

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 for this, but as has been shown in areas where such registers already exist, the register itself does not have any positive impact on the carer unless there is directive given on what should be done once someone's name is on the register. What benefit is it to have yourself 'registered' at your GP practice if this doesn't mean that you will then be contacted with useful information, resources and support in the local area?

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:

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 would be best if the lead local authority for carrying out assessment and providing support to the carer was where the carer resides.

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 which provides the support should be responsible for the cost of it rather than being reimbursed from the cared for person's authority.

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

Yes

No

Comments: