

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: *Getting it Right for Young Carers – the Young Carers Strategy for Scotland 2010-15* notes that completion rates for assessments of Young Carers has been very low despite the right to receive an assessment being granted under Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 2002. The Strategy as noted suggests a new approach under GIRFEC where the needs of all children requiring support will be assessed against the Wellbeing Indicators and a Child's Plan to meet intended outcomes produced by and with the team supporting the child. Therefore, in line with this change in approach to providing support away from an assessment of need towards an outcome based approach, Young Carers' outcomes should be met by a Child's Planning process rather than a separate Young Carers' Assessment. Argyll and Bute Council and Childcare Partners are updating Child's Planning models to include a question aimed at identifying Young Carers and any support needs identified as a result of Caring responsibilities will be met within the Child's 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: An outcomes based approach to assessment and planning will remove any perceived need to restrict access to potential support to any sub-category of Young 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: Young Carers could have support needs where the person cared-for has medical needs only or has refused 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: Many Young Carers will not be aware of their right to an assessment and many young people with additional support needs relating to caring responsibilities will not readily identify themselves as Young Carers, therefore local authorities should have the ability to offer support based on identified outcomes.

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

Yes

No

Comments: Young Carers' will identify outcomes which relate to their daily living and which may include continuing to provide a level of care while having the life of similar age/stage young people outside of their caring responsibilities.

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: Argyll and Bute Council maintains a commitment to complete any Child's Plan under GIRFEC within 21 days of receipt of the request for assistance.

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

Comments: For Young Carers this issue is covered by existing guidance and legislation in relation to the transfer of Child's plans, LAAC or CSPs.

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: Local Authorities should be encouraged to use existing legislation and guidance more effectively. Young carers require the right information at the right time rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.

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: As outlined in the Consultation Paper it does not seem necessary to continue this provision in the light of imminent integration of Health and Social Care.

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: Notwithstanding the comments in the Consultation Paper it is difficult to envisage the benefits of such a move to young people with caring responsibilities who's support needs should already be met through Child's Planning processes. There is also a concern that introducing a separate duty dilutes the principle of universality of response to children's needs on an outcome based approach that underpins GIRFEC.

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

Yes

No

Comments: See 11.

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

Yes

No

Comments: Again the outcome based approach of GIRFEC would seem to require the principle of universality of access rather than introducing duties to provide specified services to particular groups. Where an individual Child's Plan identifies a Short Break as the most effective or appropriate means of achieving an identified outcome, SDS provides additional means of accessing this support in areas where

specified Short Break services are impractical or inaccessible due to remoteness or low demand.

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: For Young Carers – see comment above.

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: Provisions outlined in the Consultation are useful support to young people through the period of transition from Children's to Adult Service Provision.

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: Although existing legislation, guidance and the implementation of SDS outline the responsibility of local authorities and partner agencies to take young people's views into account when assessing needs as carers, the experiences of Young Carers as described in the Consultation Paper, particularly where issues of perceived confidentiality have been used to prevent Young Carers' views from being heard suggests that the proposal as outlined would be useful.

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: Existing legislation and guidance is sufficient

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: Existing legislation and guidance is sufficient.

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: Consultation Paper's suggestions are useful. In Argyll and Bute Young Carers' views are and will continue to be sought and inform the Integrated Children's Services Plan at both local and Argyll –wide levels.

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: As noted in the Consultation Paper, and as is the case in Argyll and Bute, strategies to develop and support services for Young Carers will be reviewed within the evolving Integrated Children's Service Plan.

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: Again the outcomes based approach of GIRFEC requires an underlying principle of universality of access rather than a specification of services to defined groups. Remoteness and population dispersion require local authorities and partner agencies in areas such as Argyll to develop flexible approaches to meeting identified outcomes. SDS provides a means of individualising support within this rural context.

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: None

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: None

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

Yes

No

Comments: None

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: Rules of Ordinary Residence and the changes to the roles of Responsible authorities contained within Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 contain adequate provision to guide local authorities in the rare occasions when this may be an issue for a Young Carer.

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: See 25.

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

Yes

No

Comments: See 25.