

## **Our Views on the Proposals for Carers Legislation**

**Midlothian Dementia Single Service Carer Reference Group** - We are a group of carers who have been involved in feeding back on the developments for a single dementia service in Midlothian. Five members of the group met to discuss and feedback on the proposed legislation.

We all care for an older person with dementia – either a spouse/partner, or a parent.

We can be contacted via:

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**We support the government's proposals for carers legislation and wished to provide feedback on some specific areas of the legislation, outlined below:**

### **Carer's Assessment/Support Plan**

We agree that the name of the carer's assessment should be changed, but also wanted to emphasise the importance of how individual workers explain the purpose of the assessment/plan, and that this can be as important as the name.

We feel that it is important that people are treated as individuals in any assessment process – different people are looking for different outcomes from an assessment, and the process should be adjusted accordingly.

We agree that there should be 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.

We also wished to emphasise that assessment is often the first step, and just as important is what happens after an assessment, and the implementation of support.

### **Hospital Discharge**

We think that specific provisions in the new legislation are necessary in relation to hospital discharge. We agree with the National Carer Organisations position that a duty should be introduced on health boards to inform carers of and involve carers in hospital discharge planning.

From our experience we have encountered significant problems in communication and planning for hospital discharge. We think that discharge planning which fully involves carers would be of benefit.

We believe that better communication with carers improves the quality of care for the people we care for, as it is often carers who are responsible once the person returns home.

We feel that discharge planning should ideally involve carers from the start of a hospital admission.

**Please email this form to: [CarersandYoungCarersPolicy@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:CarersandYoungCarersPolicy@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)**

**Or post it to: Carers Branch (Consultation), Adult Care and Support Division,  
The Scottish Government, 2ER, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG**