

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:

We welcome the proposal to change the name of the carer's assessment to the Carer's Support plan and in fact, have already instigated this change locally. We recognise that some carers feel that the phrase 'carer's assessment' is overly judgemental and hope that the proposed change will mark the beginning of a more inclusive approach to supporting carers.

We recognise that the Carer's Support Plan will have a strong connection to the cared for person's assessment of need. We also accept that some personal outcomes identified by the carer might be dependent on the services that are offered to the cared for person however we would wish to see the Carer's Support plan develop as a legitimate and necessary support mechanism in its own right.

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:

We welcome the removal of the substantial and regular criteria. We believe that all individuals who fulfil a caring role, irrespective of the extent of this, should be entitled to a Carer's Support Plan.

We believe this will send a strong and positive message to carers about how much we value them and the work that they undertake on behalf of the cared for person.

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:

We strongly believe that a carer's role must be defined in relation to the cared for

person and the activities undertaken with them or on their behalf. It follows then that the development of the Carer Support Plan should reflect the totality of the carer role that is being undertaken and should not be dependent on whether the cared for person receives a service from the local authority.

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:

We recognise the desirability of improving our knowledge of how many individuals are fulfilling a carer role in Perth and Kinross and believe that this would be achieved by having a more flexible and responsive approach to the development of a Carer's Support Plan.

We would support the proposal for both the carer and local authority having the ability to initiate the development of a Carer's Support plan. We also believe that carers can choose to decline the local authority request but can reserve the right to reconsider their decision should their needs and circumstances change at any point thereafter. We would also suggest that, all other things being equal, the carer should be offered as a minimum, an annual review of the Carer's Support Plan.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

We welcome the proposal to remove the wording about the carer's ability to provide care as we recognise how judgemental and dispiriting this could be for the carer. The Carer's Support Plan should, in our opinion reflect the needs of the carer and their personal outcomes so that they feel supported in their caring role and that they have the opportunity, should they wish, to pursue a life outside of this caring role.

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:

We recognise that the needs of carers can change depending on the wellbeing and circumstances of themselves or the cared for person. We would support a proposal to introduce an obligation on local authorities or other bodies to inform the carer of the length of time it is likely to take to complete an assessment and if it exceeds this time to be advised of the reasons for this. We believe that this transparency will be of assistance to the carer, the cared for person and their support network.

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

Comments:

We recognise that for those carers and cared for persons who move, for whatever reason from one local authority area to another the portability (or otherwise) of their assessment may be a significant issue.

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:

We would welcome further discussions with COSLA and the Scottish Government to determine how an existing assessment can be used as an indicative baseline for conversations with a carer who has newly moved to a local authority area about any changed needs and preferred outcomes that they may have.

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:

We believe that it is essential for carers to have access to appropriate advice and information about the carer's role and the services and organisations that are available to support carers. We would support the introduction of a duty for local authorities to provide or commission a Carer's Information service. In addition, we would hope that any such duty promoted carer involvement in the delivery of this service.

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:

We are comfortable with the proposal to repeal section 12 of the Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 2002 requiring the submission of Carer Information Strategies to Scottish Ministers. However we would wish to stress that in doing so there needs to be a continuing willingness across all sectors to contribute to the development of a Joint Carer's Strategy and the promotion of all services that are subsequently commissioned.

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:

We support the proposal to introduce a duty to support carers and young carers, linked to an eligibility framework. We would suggest that such a framework needs to have a proportionate connection to the eligibility criteria for the cared for person and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss that linkage with local persons and organisations.

To operate effectively, the eligibility framework must be based on a comprehensive Carer's Support Plan that is wholly objective regarding the needs of the carers and their abilities to fulfil the carer's role.

It is appropriate for carer's to decline any services that are offered to them although we believe that carer's should reserve the right to revisit this should there any change in their wellbeing and circumstances or those of the cared for person. We do not think it appropriate for the Carer's support Plan to be unduly influenced by any obligations that carers feel they must fulfil because of the relationship that they have with the cared for person.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

On the whole, we are not in favour of retaining the existing discretionary power to support carers and young carers. We believe that it is potentially too confusing to have too many variables in a decision of whether to provide support to carers or not.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

We would be broadly supportive of a duty of local authorities to provide and promote short breaks. We acknowledge the legitimate counter arguments, such as the financial cost, that can be lined up against such a proposal but we feel that there is a significant opportunity to provide a flexible and effective service that can be tailored to meet the needs of different carers and cared for individuals from different client groups.

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:

It is incumbent upon local authorities and other carer support organisations to appreciate that carers will have changing needs depending on their wellbeing and that of the cared for person.

We believe that issuing statutory guidance on the Carer's Support Plan and managing the stages of caring will provide a valuable benchmark for our expected response to those changing needs and circumstances.

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:

It would seem appropriate that young carers who will become adult carers are offered a Carer's Support Plan. It is wholly appropriate that there are discussions about the support needed to enable them to carry on caring whilst being able to meet their own aspirations and achieve good personal outcomes. We envisage that these discussions would become the basis of a personalised route map for the young person's transition into adult services.

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:

We recognise the insight and experience that carers can bring to discussions about the needs of cared for persons. We aspire for carers to be equal partners in the planning and delivery of all appropriate services and would welcome appropriate carer involvement in the planning, shaping and delivery of services

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:

We believe that carers' organisations have a valuable role to play in the planning, shaping and delivery of services and welcome their contributions to the discussions about how the needs and aspirations of carers can best be met.

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:

We believe it would be appropriate and desirable to establish a principle about carer and young carer involvement in care planning for service users. This would send a clear and unambiguous statement that the experience of the carer and their insight into the needs of the cared for person should be taken into account in all care planning activities.

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:

We think it would be appropriate to offer young carers the opportunity to be involved in the planning, shaping and delivery of services for cared for people and support for young carers. We acknowledge that careful consideration would need to be given as to how best the young carers could and should be supported but we believe that our planning and delivery of services will be enhanced by this contribution.

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:

We believe that the development of a Joint Carers Strategy must be seen as a prerequisite for effective engagement with carers and their involvement in the planning and delivery of appropriate services.

We would be comfortable with the introduction of statutory provision to the effect that a local authority and relevant health board must collaborate and involve

relevant organisations and carers in the development of local carer strategies which must be reviewed and updated every three years.

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:

We would always wish to determine through regular dialogue and consultation with carers and appropriate others whether we were meeting the needs of carers and young carers.

As such, we are broadly supportive of this proposal and recognise that this would be a positive development for carers however we would wish further clarification on what constitutes a 'sufficient range of services'.

We would also suggest that for this sufficient range of services be made available 'in so far as is reasonably practicable' opens up the possibility of there being much discussion about what is 'reasonably practicable'. As such, we acknowledge that this debate will be influenced by a number of factors including: the diversity of the carer role, a locality emphasis on the provision of service, the promotion of self-management of long term conditions and self-directed support.

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:

We believe that legislating in itself for the creation and maintenance of a Carer's Register will not necessarily improve our identification of carers in Perth and Kinross.

Instead, we believe that it would be more beneficial to promote a culture that is responsive to the needs of carers so that our understanding of who they are and what their circumstances are form the beginning of a carer's journey where services are available to be offered as and when needed or wanted.

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:

We welcome the sharing of good practice across all professional disciplines and sectors. As such we would be minded to support those Health Board initiatives that sought to develop a proactive and innovative use of a Carer's Register within GP practices.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

Given that the maintenance of a Carer's Register is a core contractual element for GPs it seems appropriate that Health Boards are asked to monitor this. We would suggest that, given that the needs and circumstances of the carer and cared for person can change over time this Register must be a dynamic, up to date Register.

In addition to knowing who the carers are it would be useful we believe to know what referrals have been made on their behalf or what signposting to other services has been offered.

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:

Where the carer and cared for person live in different local authority areas we believe that the development of the Carer's Support Plan should be undertaken by the local authority where the carer resides.

We believe that this will help strengthen the local authority's knowledge of who the carers in their area are, and their understanding of those carers' needs, irrespective of whether the cared for person is also in the area or not.

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:

We believe that the most practical arrangement would be for the costs of any support services provided to the carer, because of their caring role, to be borne by that local authority which has undertaken the Carer's Support Plan, ie the local authority in which they reside.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

The impact of changing demographics, family migration patterns and work/life balance is difficult to determine however we believe that there is an opportunity to extend the Ordinary Residence Guidance to include the different residency arrangements of the carer and cared for person.

We believe that this would be a positive development in the best interests of the carer and cared for person and we would expect it to encourage co-operation amongst local authorities and resolve any disputes that may arise.