

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: Would agree with a more comprehensive approach to assessing the needs of carers, however assessment and agreement on the level of support given should remain as key elements of the process.

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: There should be some agreement on what constitutes eligibility for support so that organisations can be able to quantify the impact on available resources.

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 should be moving towards a system that is congruent with the principles of providing integrated services. Those being cared for may have a range of needs that are being met by a range of organisations not just Local Authorities. This is particularly relevant in relation to the SDS agenda.

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: Again this raises a number of issues especially in relation to the delivery of integrated services in the future and the development of SDS. Carers should have the right to request an assessment however the proposed legislation focussed on the role of Local Authorities when it should be more reflective of the Joint Public Bodies Act.

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

Yes

No

Comments: The legislation and supporting guidance should also include references on the capacity and capability of carers to provide care. It should also recognise that training and additional support could be provided to help the carer develop the skills required for their 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: This should also include an indication of when any support could be provided. There should also be flexibility in the system to allow practitioners to take account of individual needs for example end of life care, the seriousness of the illness etc.

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

Comments: There should be a process for reviewing an existing Carers Support Plan if they move to another area. This would help to manage the process and ensure that there was minimum disruption. There is the potential for significant risk especially the person being cared for has complex needs and there is a break in the provision of support.

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: Should reflect the potential involvement of other organisations for example the NHS if the person requires additional support such as home ventilation.

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: Again this is not just an issue for Local Authorities and the legislation should reflect the approach taken in Joint Public Bodies Act.

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: There needs to be a more coherent approach to planning for services and support for carers for example we have a local FV Integrated Carers Strategy which has implementation plans based on FV wide and Local Authority boundaries. We should be taking an integrated approach to planning for carers, the legislation needs to reflect the approach taken in Joint Public Bodies Act.

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: This should be included in an approach that covers all elements of respite care not just short breaks.

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: Any approach should reflect the transitional nature and special circumstances that relate to children and young people.

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: This already takes place locally with carers recognised as a key stakeholder group

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: See 17 above

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: See 17 above

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: This is already embedded in our local planning processes with carers

identified both nationally and locally as a key group.

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 be included in the development of local HSCEPs and should be seen as wider issue for organisations not just Local Authorities and Health Boards.

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: this should be reflected in guidance around the performance management of carers agenda along with other measures including use of the QoF.

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: See comments above in Qu. 22

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: Interesting concept however the needs of the carer determine the most appropriate place for this to sit as they might well have arrange of needs covering more than one LA area. Further discussion required.

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 response to Qu.25

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

Yes

No

Comments: What about other agencies and their involvement in the process.