

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: All carers, whether or not the cared-for person gets support provided by the local authority, should be part of the carers assessment process.

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: The carer should be able to ask for one and be offered one. It should be mandatory for the local authority to offer it.

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

Yes

No

Comments: Currently the wording says that a carer's ability to give care is being assessed. Some carers don't like this. They think it is saying they are not good enough at giving care. The rules should be changed so that the Carer's Support Plan doesn't say anything about a carer's "ability to give care".

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: Not knowing how long it takes to get a Carers Support Plan can add to the anxiety and stress for carers. It is important to explain the process and the timescale from the beginning. It is important not to wait until the last moment to tell the carer of delays or that it will take longer. They should be told why it is taking longer.

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

Comments: This is important. Carers may have to choose to move so they can receive additional help and support from family members or may have to move because of employment. To ensure carers can have a "life of their own" and that their own health and wellbeing are not compromised because of their caring role, a move which would help to support this should not be compromised because of a delay in services for the person they care for.

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: Not all parts of the country have the same services. Service users might not be able to get the same support if they move to a new area. They might have to wait until a new carer's assessment is done.
We think it should be easier for service users and carers to move to a new area. We think the Government and local authorities should work together to make this happen.

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: The information and advice must be independent.

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 should be an independent overview of all local authority strategies and plans for support.

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: There should be a duty to support carers and young carers.

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

Yes

No

Comments: No – there should be a duty to support carers and young carers.

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

Yes

No

Comments: Research shows that if carers get short breaks they are more able to continue in their role as a carer.
There must be flexibility built in that carers can take the person they care for with them on a short break if that is their choice.
More planning time is needed to allow carers to put other things in place to allow them to take a short break. They can get too short notice.

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: Yes. It must include stages within adult services and between adult services and older peoples services.

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: Their needs as a carer will change and it is important that there is a smooth transition from a young carer to an adult carer with smooth transition in support etc.

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:

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

Yes and there should be support for this to happen.

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: Young carers want and need to be involved. They may need specialised support to help them be involved fully.

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:

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 GPs and local authorities to maintain a Carers Register in order to support the identification of carers.

GPs are often the first place that a person goes to. They may not think of themselves as a carer. GPs can maintain a register – but they must then link the individuals to carer support and getting a carers support plan.

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: Yes, sharing good practice is always good. It will help GPs and others see how useful having and using a Register of carers is and will show the benefits for the carer, the cared for person and for the GPs themselves.

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: the local authority where the carer lives should take the lead on the Carer's support plan. But they must work with the other local authority. They can't do it in isolation from the LA where the cared for person lives.

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 costs should be covered by the local authority where the carer lives. But they need to work with the other local authority.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

These comments are from the Edinburgh Carers Reference Group.

Outside the Box is commissioned by Edinburgh CHP and the City of Edinburgh Council to provide independent support to the Edinburgh Carers Reference Group.