

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:

Dundee City Council considers that the name should be changed to Carers Support Plan. Carers were consulted at an event on 24th March 2014 and the majority of Carers considered that it should be changed.

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:

Dundee City Council supports this position. Dundee City Council already has a policy of undertaking assessments for any Carer who requests it. Carers were consulted at an event on 24th March 2014 and the majority of Carers considered that all Carers should be eligible for the Carer's Support Plan. We also consider that the Carers Support Plan should be required to focus on Carers personal outcomes and Scottish Government should be expected ask Local Authorities to demonstrate improvement in Carers Outcomes. Scottish Government should be expected to ensure sufficient monies are made available from central sources to support this provision.

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:

Dundee City Council supports the position that the person being cared for should not have to qualify for Local Authority support to get a Carer's assessment. Dundee City Council already has a policy of undertaking assessments for any Carer who requests it. Carers were consulted at an event on 24th March 2014 and the majority of Carers considered that all Carers should be eligible to have a Carer's Support Plan regardless of whether the cared for person is a person for whom the local authority must or may provide community care services/children's services. Scottish Government should be expected to ensure sufficient monies are made available from central sources to support this provision.

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:

Dundee City Council supports this position. Currently Dundee City Council already has a policy of undertaking assessments for any Carer who requests it and by assessment staff making an offer. We considered that Local Authorities should continue be able to discharge powers/ duties to 3rd Sector or NHS Boards to complete a Carers Support Plan to be able to respond to individual Carers circumstances and choices.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

Dundee City Council supports this position. Carers were consulted at an event on 24th March 2014 and the majority of Carers considered that the wording regarding ability to provide care should be removed. Dundee City Council suggests, however, that wording should be included which makes reference to risks and support needed to achieve Carer's outcomes. As noted above, we also consider that the Carers Support Plan should be required to focus on Carers personal outcomes and Scottish Government should be expected ask Local Authorities to demonstrate improvement in Carers Outcomes.

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:

Dundee City Council supports this position. We suggest that a maximum waiting time from the request for the Carers support plan is provided by Scottish Government and where this is not possible that the Local Authority provides reasons. As noted above, we also consider that the Carers Support Plan should be required to focus on Carers personal outcomes and Scottish Government should be expected ask Local Authorities to demonstrate improvement in Carers outcomes. Scottish Government should be expected to ensure sufficient monies are made available from central sources to support this provision.

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

Comments:

Dundee City Council consider that the Carer should be able to bring their agreed Carers Support Plan to another local area, should they move and this support plan should then be considered by the receiving local area, who will take into account local circumstances and supports when implementing the plan. Scottish Government should be expected to ensure sufficient monies are made available from central sources to support this provision.

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:

The Dundee City Council supports this position and considers that partnership approaches are essential towards enabling Carers to meet their outcomes. We are of the view however, that local circumstances, local support arrangements and Carers personal choice will inform the development and implementation of the support plan and this should be included in any discussions.

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:

Dundee City Council supports this position. Carers were consulted at a consultation event on 24th March 2014 and all Carers considered that it should be made a duty for the Local Authority to provide accurate, up to date and adequate information and advice services. We consider this would also support existing duties embodied in the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968. We considered that Local Authorities should be able to discharge this function to 3rd Sector or NHS Boards as required by local circumstances to meet this duty. Scottish Government should be expected to ensure sufficient monies are made available from central sources to support this provision.

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:

Dundee City Council considers that a joint strategic commissioning approach is required instead of a carer information strategy and this should be completed in line with JIT guidance. (The National Steering Group agreed the following definition of strategic commissioning. ***Strategic commissioning is the term used for all the activities involved in assessing and forecasting needs, links investment to agreed desired outcomes, considering options, planning the nature, range and quality of future services and working in partnership to put these in place.*** Joint commissioning is where these actions are undertaken by two or more agencies working together, typically health and local government, and often from a pooled or aligned budget.)

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:

Dundee City Council supports this position. Carers were consulted at an event on 24th March 2014 and all Carers considered a duty should be introduced to support Carers and young Carers, linked to an eligibility framework. We also considered that Local Authorities should be able to discharge this function to 3rd Sector or NHS Boards as required by local circumstances and to enable promotion of Carers choice. Scottish Government should be expected to ensure sufficient monies are made available from central sources to support this provision.

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

Yes

No

Comments: No – see above

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

Yes

No

Comments:

Dundee City Council considers that support should be based on achieving Carers outcomes and promotion of Carers choice about type of support. We recognise that short breaks contribute to Carers outcomes but are not the only route. The feedback from Carers at a consultation event on 24th March was that Carers should be able to access to short break where this was identified as part of their support arrangements. Following this we consider that the legislation should encompass a **discretionary power** rather than a duty to provide short breaks to ensure that Carers are offered the choice about type of support they consider will be of most benefit. Scottish Government should be expected to ensure sufficient monies are made available from central sources to support this provision.

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:

Dundee City Council considers that support should be based on achieving Carers outcomes and promotion of Carers choice about type of support and will expect statutory guidance to be developed on this basis.

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:

The Dundee City Council supports the position that all Carers should have a Carers support plan.

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:

Dundee City Council consider that Carers should be involved in the strategic planning for the people they care for and support for Carers in line with strategic commissioning, planning and integration arrangements currently in place. We consider that should Carers be interested in being involved in planning, shaping and delivery of services outwith the scope of integration then there should be opportunities for this.

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:

Dundee City Council consider that Carer organisations and other interested support organisations who support Carers in addition to their main role should be involved in the strategic commissioning and planning. We consider that should Carers organisation and other interested support organisations that support Carers in addition to their main role be interested in being involved in planning, shaping and delivery of services outwith the scope of integration then there should be opportunities for this.

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:

Dundee City Council supports this position subject to service users consent and identification of any adult, child and public protection risks. The feedback from Carers at a consultation event on 24th March was that a principle of involvement should be established. We consider a collaborative approach is best practice, where it is clear that the carer and service user best interests are at the forefront.

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:

Dundee City Council consider that young Carers should be involved in the strategic commissioning and planning for the people they care for through age appropriate consultation and involvement.

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 consider that a joint strategic commissioning statement should be developed instead of a Local Carers strategy to ensure a focus on linking investment to agreed desired outcomes is undertaken as part of the strategic developments. This would also support a focus the achievement of Carers outcomes and achievement of proposed national health and social care outcomes.

The National Steering Group (JIT) agreed the following definition ***Strategic commissioning is the term used for all the activities involved in assessing and forecasting needs, links investment to agreed desired outcomes,***

considering options, planning the nature, range and quality of future services and working in partnership to put these in place. Joint commissioning is where these actions are undertaken by two or more agencies working together, typically health and local government, and often from a pooled or aligned budget.

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:

Dundee City Council considers that a sufficient range of supports should be developed based on achieving Carers outcomes and promotion of Carers choice about the type of support they consider will enable them to achieve their outcomes. We consider that implementation of a joint strategic commissioning approach will enable this happen.

We also consider that the proposed Carers legislation should make reference and where appropriate update the duties outlined in section 19 of the Social Care (Self Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013 with regards to Carers. Scottish Government should be expected to ensure sufficient monies are made available from central sources to support this provision.

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:

Dundee City Council considers that identification and support should be based on achieving Carers outcomes. At a consultation event on 24th March, Carers considered that there should be a legislative provision to make NHS Boards and Local Authorities make arrangements to support the identification of Carers. We consider that in making this arrangement information about the numbers, support needs and demographics of Carers should be gained to support strategic planning and development of resources. Scottish Government should be expected to ensure sufficient monies are made available from central sources to support this provision.

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:

Dundee City Council considers that identification and support should be based on achieving Carers outcomes and promotion of good practice, as opposed to a specific focus on Carers registers only.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

Dundee City Council supports this position. At a consultation event on 24th March, Carers considered that there should be legislation to make NHS Boards monitor compliance with core contractual elements of the GP Contract.

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:

In line with question 7, the Dundee City Council consider that the Carer should be able to bring their agreed Carers Support Plan to another local area, should they move and this support plan should then be considered by the receiving local area, who will take into account local circumstances and supports when implementing the support plan. Scottish Government should be expected to ensure sufficient monies are made available from central sources to support this provision.

We also consider that Scottish Government should make reference to Scottish Government Ordinary Residence Guidance currently in place for users of services and amend and update this to reflect Carers support considerations.

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:

Dundee City Council consider that Scottish Government should make reference to Scottish Government Ordinary Residence Guidance currently in place for users of services and amend and update this to reflect Carers support considerations.

At a Carers consultation event on 24th March, Carers also suggested that Scottish Government should set up a central fund, which could be applied to, to cover these costs and ensure that support is provided regardless of Local Area of residence.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

We consider that Scottish Government should make reference to Scottish Government Ordinary Residence Guidance currently in place for users of services and amend and update this to reflect Carers support considerations.

Additional Comment

We did note that the questions on this consultation form were out of sync with the easy read version and hard copy of the consultation, which may impact on the responses provided. We also had a concern that the easy read version did not accurately reflect the nature of questions being asked.