

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 understand the reasons for the proposed change and would therefore support this move. We do have some concerns that this does not describe an assessment and suggests the next stage of the process. It may, therefore, be a confusing term.

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 are fully supportive of this proposal; it will make the system fairer and will ensure that everyone gets an assessment.

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 are fully supportive of this for the reasons outlined in the consultation document.

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 are supportive of this proposal as many carers will be unaware that they have the right to an assessment.

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

Yes

No

Comments: This makes sense and means that issues, such as the carer wanting

to continue in employment, would be taken into consideration.

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:

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

Comments: Portability of assessment is a significant issue for service users and their carers. It should be possible for there to be a seamless transition when a person with support needs moves area, where they are provided with consistent support and without a break in 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: No further comment.

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 are strongly in support of this believing that the availability of information and advice is absolutely vital to ensure that people receive the support to which they are entitled. We believe that people having access to the support they need at the right time may prevent people finding themselves in a crisis situation later on.

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 do have concerns however that there could be a gap between repealing section 12 and health and social care integration being established and would want to be reassured that there are transitional safeguards in place.

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 believe that it 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: We believe it is vital that there should be a discretionary power to support carers and young carers. What may be lower level support is likely to prevent people reaching a situation where they reach a crisis point needing a significant level of intervention.

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

Yes

No

Comments: We are firmly of the opinion that short breaks can maintain the health and well being of carers and provide an important breathing space for both carers and people who need support. RLO has experience of providing short breaks, for example through our Broomfield service in Angus, and we can demonstrate the positive outcomes of such support.

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: We believe it is essential that statutory guidance is issued on the Carer's Support Plan and agree with the stages of caring outlined in Chapter 5.

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: We have a concern, however, that it could be assumed that a young carer would become an adult carer and would want safeguards in place to ensure that options moving into further or higher education and a career are given solid consideration.

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: It is essential that all partners are involved in planning, shaping and delivering services. We would want to see the principles of co production firmly adhered to. It is essential to involve carers if support is to be person centred and appropriate.

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 feel this is also important.

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 is very important that such a principle is established.

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 do not have further comments to make.

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 feel that this is important to ensure that support for carers remains person centred and focussed and this would help ensure that this is the case.

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: It is important that this is a duty and not left to discretion in order to ensure that people are able to access the support they require.

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 a requirement for GPs or local authorities to hold a Carers Register is important in ensuring that there can be forward planning and for ensuring that carers are receiving the support that is essential. Identification of a person as a carer by a GP may mean that issues are identified as carers issues that may otherwise be missed, for example stress related illness, or injury through lifting. We are particularly concerned about older family carers of adults with learning disability where there is a need to plan ahead for a point in time when the person may need more formalised support.

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: Our response to question 22 is relevant here also.

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

Yes

No

Comments: We are concerned that carers may be missed as a specific group so we would welcome this monitoring.

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: We do not have a view on this difficult question.

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 do not have a view on this issue.

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

Yes

No

Comments: We do not have additional comments to make here.