

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: Yes. Information from Carers is that the name Carers Support Plan sound less like a test and should help to encourage people to apply for a CSP.

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: Carers assessments need to be reviewed regularly and flexible so they can take place on demand. Third sector caters for Carers who are not in receipt of services or support from the Local Authority or NHS. More carers should be able to access support to protect their health and wellbeing.

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:

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:

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

Yes

No

Comments: Yes as it stigmatising.

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: Yes. Carers need to be kept informed and have an idea how long they might need to make extra arrangements. This would allow them to take some sort of control over the situation which may help to lessen the negative impact upon their wellbeing.

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

Comments: This is very important to support the ease of carers who may live in a different area from the person they care for; for those populations who require care out with their home area; and for those who come from travelling communities. Caring in these circumstances can be even more challenging which may represent an additional negative impact on the health and wellbeing of the carer and the person they are caring 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: Absolutely – people are actually fed up with so many assessments because they will likely have been present, and contributed to the cared for person's multiple assessments as well. Assessments of Carer needs should focus upon the whole family situation, not just on the main unpaid Carer.

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: A service which provides people with information and advice would be

very valuable whether it is placed in the Local Authority or the Third Sector it need to be financed, integrated and supported effectively.

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: It is very important effective support, advice, advocacy and information services are in place to support carers and young carers in order to protect their health and wellbeing and that of the person they are caring for.

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: It is important that people (regardless of criteria) who feel they need support are able to access it, when they need it. All Carers, young or old should be eligible for support relevant to their needs.

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

Yes

No

Comments: It is important that carers are able to have some control and choice over what support services, advice and activities they access and that this is available when it suits the carers. This could help to protect the health and wellbeing. It is important that people (regardless of criteria) who feel they need support are able to access it, when they need it. All Carers, young or old should be eligible for support relevant to their needs.

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

Yes

No

Comments: Yes. Carers value time away from their caring responsibilities and it is very important that they are offered this service regularly, flexibly and that a short break is classed as a break from caring, not necessarily requiring the carer to be away from their home. This will have financial implications for the Local Authority

and will need financed. Effective communication systems need to be in place to keep the carer, NHS and LA informed during these times. Carer organisations may be better placed to support this service with the Carer and the person being care for at the centre of the process. In Argyll and Bute there is very little access to respite care and it is not available locally which adds to the stress and difficulty arranging breaks for Carers.

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: Doesn't necessarily have to be statutory.

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 is important that carers in transition from young carers services to adult carers services are supported effectively and there is sufficient support services on each local area to prevent adverse effects on the carers health and wellbeing.

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: Absolutely. Services need to consult carers and the people they care when developing services, support, advocacy and information services in their

area. A responsibility for Co-production of services should be required from the LA.

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: It is important third sector organisation in particular are included in this process as they may be in touch with carers who are not visible to NHS or LA services and all of these carers must be supported effectively.

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: Yes. Additional thought is needed to support young carers especially through transition from young carer to adult carer to help promote their ability to live a happy and fulfilling life of their own separate from their caring responsibilities. Carers need to be provided with free training and those who are working in addition to Caring should be supported better.

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 should be involved in this process. A responsibility for Co-production of services should be required from the LA.

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: Yes. NHS and LA will need additional capacity and finance to provide this service which should not come from existing monies.

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: Yes. It is important to support the wellbeing of communities and carers that there is a range of services and activities which meet the needs of carers in the local community. Access to free training for Carers should be provided with respite provision in place to allow the Carer to attend training which can support their caring role and help them learn more about mental health and wellbeing. Additional finance will be needed to develop and sustain these services and supports.

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: GPs and LA are key in identifying carers in the community and could act as a gateway for carers to access advice, support and access to activities which could support and promote the health and wellbeing of the carer. A carers register would be valuable to services to help target support, services, activities and information which could help promote wellbeing of the carer community. The information GPs collect should be accessible to other services such as Social Work and Public Health (Health Improvement Teams).

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: Sharing of good practice with support from the SG would be helpful.

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

Yes

No

Comments: Yes. Health Boards will require additional funding to administer this as GPs may request payment for this service. An effective reporting mechanism would need to be developed to report upon this.

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: This service may be effectively supported by Carers organisations rather than the LA. Staff who undertake these assessments must be effectively trained and in many cases the significant health issues experienced by the cared for person requires that NHS staff are the best places to assess the requirements of the service user and carer.

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:

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

Yes

No

Comments: Yes. Guidance for LA's would be valuable.