

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: From discussion, we know that Carer's in Shetland would prefer a change to Carer's Support Plan and are happy as a LA to support that. Use of the proposed new wording indicates better an intention to do more than assessment through the development of a plan.

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: As it removes the variables and subjective element of an assessment where there is no set definition for what is considered regular and substantial. Removal would also allow a more flexible approach to support including early intervention and preventative support where that is appropriate. Removal of the test would require the introduction of an eligibility framework.

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 can envisage times when this would be helpful and supportive in maintaining the caring role. The assessment should be based on the Carer's individual need/s in maintaining their caring role. It also allows for assessment to be provided early and on a preventative basis.

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: As this supports the rights of the carer and should improve the take up and reach of the Carer's Support Plan.

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

Yes

No

Comments: As removal of the wording adopts a more positive, outcome focussed and person centred approach. The existing wording can be perceived as judgemental and unsupportive in recognising the carer's 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: However we would prefer to see Guidance to LA (not a Duty) which would allow local flexibility. Guidance would clarify to Carer's what could be reasonably expected.

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

Comments: Not significant in Shetland as this does not typically affect this locality. However in general we think a more standard approach to eligibility would be helpful, particularly to maintain support for people moving to other areas.

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:

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 agree that access to high quality information and advice is crucial for carers and young carers but are unsure what benefit placing a Duty on the LA to develop a 'service' would add to the current arrangements and good practice already in existence. Local authorities require flexibility around how information and advice for carers and young carers is managed and distributed to reflect different patterns of service organisation. More clarity on what is meant by the term 'service' is required before we feel we can answer yes or no to this particular question. On the whole we feel that a broad but well co-ordinated range of information and advice points including LA + 3rd sector is preferable. We think that careful consideration is required before any change to CIS funding and the role they fulfil is implemented.

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 are unsure at this stage but similar to our answer to Q9, until further information is available pending decisions and reassurances from the Spending Review, the status quo should remain.

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: An eligibility framework would give guidance to the LA and support uniformity of provision and fair access across Scotland. It could also assist with aspects of portability. We assume that an assessment of need at critical or substantial would trigger a requirement for provision, with signposting for moderate or low and would welcome further discussion in the development of a framework. Additional funding for statutory provision of support may be required. An introduction of an eligibility framework for Young Carers requires careful consideration and would need to be flexible in order to fit in with local staged processes and GIRFEC. We agree it could be helpful for those young carers requiring targeted support for their caring role.

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: We are in agreement in principle and recognise that short breaks are central to supporting carers. The LA in Shetland provides flexible and responsive short breaks. Any duty to provide short breaks would have to be carefully managed and qualified with recognition that the needs/wishes and support for the carer is paramount and that short breaks may only form part of the Support Plan. We would like to see ongoing work and shared learning to scope out and further explore flexible solutions that provide support.

We are mindful that a change in provision may have financial implications and this should be kept under review.

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: However we would expect that review would be an integral part of the support plan, i.e. every 6 months or at the point of significant change.

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 agree in principle but must be kept under review as part of a transition process and should commence in advance i.e. from 16 years upwards, not on the young person reaching 18 years.

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: Aligns appropriately with the aspirations and values underpinning SDS, co-production and person centred planning.

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: As above Q16 and where required. Supports cross-boundary working. May be difficult to encompass broadly in Shetland with (current) limited alternatives to the LA.

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: As above answers - Q16 + Q17

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: Good idea in principle but would require careful support and consideration to ensure shaping of service was fully informed with appropriate consent given. Due regard required in respect of the young carer's 'Right to a Childhood'. Young carer involvement in the planning and delivery of services for the cared for person has to be considered by professionals who know the child or young person well on a needs led and individual basis according to the individual circumstances of the young person and their family. At all times we need to keep the child's best interests at the centre of decision making/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: Aligns with integration strategy and broad carer's rights

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: Appropriate but range may be limited in Shetland and provision is likely to generally fall to LA/Health Board. Clarity is required on what we mean by 'sufficient range' and any duty around provision of services needs to recognise the role of mainstream/universal services in supporting carers (particularly young carers) and how we can ensure adequate access to those services which can often be a difficulty.

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 see GPs in a good position to capture this information and this should continue particularly in conjunction with their role of referring/informing carer's of assessment and support.
Some guidance and support for local authorities around the identification and recording of numbers of young carers would also be helpful.

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: Specific measuring of compliance with Carers register as a core contract component would be favoured

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: Unlikely to arise in Shetland. However we think that the LA where the carer lives should be responsible for the carer's assessment. This should not be an issue if a national eligibility framework is produced.

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 LA providing support to the carer should fund. It may be appropriate for the LA providing support to the carer to invoice the cared for persons LA. This would need further consideration.

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

Yes

No

Comments: Guidance would support a consistent and uniform approach.