

## 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:

Historically, carers have been reluctant to enter into an "assessment" process, so the name change may offer the process a more positive "marketing" opportunity. However, carers will only participate in the process if they understand that there are positive quantifiable outcomes to be gained. The success of such an approach will rely on more than a name change. Increased numbers of carers will only participate in the process if they can be assured that this new approach will offer simple and speedy processes which will produce high quality assessments, which in turn will lead to recognizable and positive outcomes for carers.

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 mentioned in the consultation, the impact of caring is individual to that carer and will be dependent on more than the intensity of that caring role. External factors related to health inequalities and poverty will determine an individual carer's need for support. However, the effect of removing such "eligibility criteria", and the ability of the statutory sector and the third sector to provide lasting and sustainable solutions, is unknown. The potential cost of such a change will be informed by the consultation work being undertaken by the Scottish Government to fully identify the costs associated with delivering the requirements within the proposed Carers' Legislation.

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:

As stated previously, the impact of caring is individual to that carer and will be dependent on a variety of factors. All carers should be offered the opportunity to

participate in the Carer Support Plan process, regardless of whether their cared-for person has a Community Carer Assessment. Again, the effect of this change and the ability of the different sectors to respond are unknown and will be informed by the Scottish Government consultation to identify the potential costs of introducing this legislation.

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:

This will maximise the opportunities for carers to engage in the Carer Support Plan process, however, this approach will have resource implications which have yet to be quantified.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

Introducing this new form of wording will emphasise the positive outcomes carers wish to achieve in maintaining and managing their caring role and, significantly, having a life alongside caring.

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:

This would be in line with existing good practice approaches within the Statutory Sector.

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

Comments:

Portability of assessments can be a significant issue for carers, with the potential of being a contributory factor to stress levels. Any improvement which will reduce carer frustration, stress and delay to receipt of carer support would be welcomed by carers.

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:

This will reflect existing good practice across Scotland, where partnership approaches between the Statutory Sector and the Third Sector provide valuable information and advice on services to carers.

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:

This approach reflects local practice in a number of areas across Scotland. Within Lanarkshire, in recognition of local partnership approaches to supporting carers, the requirements previously encompassed within the NHS Lanarkshire Carer Information Strategy have now been encompassed within the joint strategies, "A Strategy for Carers In North Lanarkshire" and the "South Lanarkshire Carers Strategy".

### 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:

Replacing the existing Local Authority "discretionary" power to support carers with a "duty" to support carers would help ensure a consistency of approach across Scotland.

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:

Provision of short breaks to carers is a proven preventive approach which helps maintain carers' health and wellbeing, enabling them to continue their caring role. However, the successful completion of a Carer Support Plan will identify, in partnership with the carer, the most appropriate form of support needed by individual carers. This will not always be the provision of Short Breaks and packages of care should be tailored to individual need.

## 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:

Results from local Lanarkshire Carer Health Questionnaires identify stress as a key "health" issue for many carers. A contributing factor to carer stress levels is their ability to manage changes to their caring role, be it from changing "stages" or "transitions". A national approach via the Carer Support Plan which recognises that such changes can have significant implication to a caring role would help ensure that carers are fully involved in decision-making processes at key stages throughout their caring journey.

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:

In this respect, Young Carers should be entitled to access the same processes as adult carers to receive support in their caring role.

### 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:

This would reflect local practice across many areas in Scotland and replicates the arrangements in place for the new integration authorities.

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:

This would reflect local practice across many areas in Scotland and replicates the arrangements in place for the new integration authorities.

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:

Where there is an expectation that carers and young carers will provide a caring role, subject to consent, they should be included within the decision-making processes relating to the service user. This is enshrined within our national carer strategy, which acknowledges that carers are "equal partners in care".

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:

In principle, Young Carers should be involved in the planning, shaping and delivery of services for cared-for people. However, in practice, this might be best achieved in partnership with Young Carer Support Organisations.

## 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:

This will reflect local areas of good practice across Scotland.

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:

This presents challenges in that without a definition of 'reasonably practicable', or a comprehensive needs assessment, the resource requirements to ensure services are available is not known. Further, the range of providers giving support is limited and needs to be enabled/encouraged to develop.

## 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:

In 2012/13 the QOF Management 9 Indicator explicitly required Practices to maintain a Carers' Register. However, the GP Contract changed in 2013/14 and whilst a number of QOF points including Management 9 were moved into the Practice Core Payment, the expectation was that Practices would continue to undertake this service. However, given that there is now no explicit requirement written in the contract, consideration should be given to whether there is a need for legislation.

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:

Opportunities to share good practice, such as the Carer Policy Branch's "Learning & Sharing Events", should continue to be promoted.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

The requirement for NHS Boards to monitor compliance with the core contractual elements of the GP contract is already in place. There is a recognised payment verification protocol for Primary Medical Services already in place as required by CEL 15 (2013).

### **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 resides should have lead responsibility for undertaking a Carer Support Plan.

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 Local Authority where the carer resides should cover the costs of support to the carer.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

Guidance would be welcome which will help ensure a shared understanding of individual local authority responsibilities in such complex support situations.