

## 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:

Whilst we acknowledge that for some carers, the term "carer's assessment" may be a barrier and assume their competency to care is in question, the focus should be more about the practitioners' approach to undertake an assessment of the carer's needs. The term "support plan" is not synonymous with the term, "carer's assessment" as not all carer's will require a support plan following a carer's assessment. An assessment is a process rather than a one-off event. Hence, in Edinburgh, we would advocate retaining "Carer's assessment and Support Plan" which we currently use.

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 believe that we need to retain the substantial and regular test to allow discretion by practitioners when assessing the needs of carers and the associated risks of their caring role. We need to retain a mechanism for assessing carers based on need so that carers with a greater caring role are reached and supported more quickly than those with a lighter role who can access alternative supports in the community. For young carers, due to their age and status they are already recognised as having a regular and substantial role, so the substantial and regular test should be maintained.

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:

This could be a barrier to access and therefore should be removed.

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 welcome this proposal from the Scottish Government. This is existing practice in Edinburgh for a carer's assessment and as such should be retained.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

The carer's assessment should allow for the assessor to highlight any concerns or potential risks regarding the carer's ability to care for someone else. To not consider the ability to care conflicts with adult support and protection guidelines. By retaining the carer's ability to provide care, the assessor is able to identify whether or not the carer is able to continue caring weighing this up the needs of the cared for person and any associated risks. It also allows for the carer to relinquish their role in a planned way if they are no longer able to care.

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:

Whilst we recognise that standards for local authorities to inform the carer of the length of time it is likely to take to receive the Carer's Support Plan would be good practice, this should be set locally as a power rather than as a duty.

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

Comments:

In principle, portability of assessment is welcomed, as carers including young carers accessing a specific service may have to move for a variety of reasons and this should not be compromised by a lack or delay in services for the cared for person. As well as portability of assessment, good communication between

agencies is paramount including having shared systems which can facilitate the sharing of information.

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:

We agree that the Scottish Government and COSLA with relevant interests work together to take forward improvements to the portability of assessments.

### 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:

Whilst we acknowledge that it is important that carers access the right information at the right time to enable them to access services and make informed decisions about their support needs, local authorities already have an existing duty to provide people with information and advice via the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968. There is also an existing duty to support young carers under "children in need", in line with the Children (Scotland) Act 1995. There could be uncertainty about how effective eligibility frameworks would be in recognising individual circumstances of young 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:

We welcome this proposal due to the integration of health and social care.

### **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 welcome the principle of having a duty to support carers linked to an eligibility framework, but recognise that this would require additional resources to local authorities to implement this.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

This should be retained as the financial implications of changing it would need to be considered.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

We welcome the principle of having a duty to support carers linked to an eligibility framework, but recognise that this would require additional resources.

### **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 would welcome statutory guidance on this.

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:

There should be no need for a separate or additional carer's assessment if the young carer has been already identified and has completed a GIRFEC assessment. However, consideration of transition services for young carers is an important issue.

### 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:

We welcome this principle.

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:

Whilst we recognise the value of involving carers' organisations, in the planning, shaping and delivery of services, this principle should not be limited to just carers' organisations. Other third sector organisations provide carer support.

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 welcome this principle. We acknowledge that some carers may require additional support to participate and this should be provided.

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 support this in principle, subject to consent and also dependent on the capacity of the young carer and the impact on the young carer. Adequate support should be provided to allow them to do so, as involving young carers is a desired outcome.

### 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 welcome this principle.

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:

We welcome this principle, within budgets available to local authorities and Health Boards for this purpose.

### 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:

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:

An independent evaluation should also be undertaken.

### **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 would endorse retaining the current situation in Edinburgh, where the local authority providing services for the cared for person should also undertake the carer's assessment and provide appropriate support to the 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:

In principle, as above, but this raises an issue about the local authorities capacity and resources to do this. Clear guidelines would be required for all local authorities.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

Any guidelines produced should also be issued to Health Boards and third sector organisations.