

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:

Our policy is that that all carers should have a support plan were there is assessed need and are eligible to receive support. The support plan should outline how the outcomes identified by the carer will be managed and met. The support plan should also include clear goals and timescales.

For those carers whose caring role is minimal, we would advocate that preventative support including information and signposting would be provided. In these situations it may not be appropriate to support plan to be developed. In Angus we are developing an information and signposting approach to accessing preventive services through our self directed support pathway. This is based on community capacity building linked to health and social care integration. For those who are experiencing a greater impact from their caring role, more intensive support would be identified and provided. In Angus we believe that it is critical that the carer support Plan should be reviewed frequently to ensure changes to the caring role and level of impact is monitored.

In Angus the local Carers centre and other third sector services undertake a Carer Support Plan and assessment as part of their specialist support to carers. The overall responsibility for promotion and delivery of the Carer support plan would remain with the local authority.

Angus Council supports the proposal to remove the wording about the carer's 'ability to care' as this is frequently being misinterpreted as a judgement of the carer's ability to provide care.

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:

Angus Council currently provides opportunities for all carers to undertake a self assessment approach to identify their own needs. This includes a carer support plan. The Council provides for a range of supports for carers through a number of commissioned and directed provided services. Carers who provide substantial and regular care are offered a more in depth assessment undertaken by a professional that acts as gateway to access more opportunities for other support, e.g. respite.

Angus Council believes that this directive outlined in the Carer's Assessment (Scotland) Directions 2014 made by Scottish Ministers under section 5(1A) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 is unnecessary and that we would advocate using local guidance in partnership with carers organisations. The Angus partnership has also recently published a strategy for carers which set out a joint approach for the undertaking of carers assessments in Angus.

Angus Council supports the proposal to remove the wording about the carer's ability to care. This can be interpreted by carers as a judgement on the carer's rather than recognition of their care and contribution.

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:

Angus Council supports the proposal to introduce a duty on local authorities to provide support to carers. This is consistent with the SDS Act where carers can be assessed as needing support. This support should be explicitly linked to meeting the outcomes of carers as defined within their support plans. The assessment should be subject to an eligibility framework and subject to a needs assessment. In respect of young carers we support the view that young carers could access support whether or not they have a Child's Plan. We would argue that young carers Support Plan needs to be linked and considered within the Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach and who may be eligible for the Child's Plan under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill.

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 support the view that both the Local Authority and Carers can initiate an assessment and in turn the development of a support plan but fundamentally this should be based on principles of co-production partnership and exchange.

In respect of undertaking assessments and support plan for all carer's raises a few concerns. We have some concerns regarding assessing all carers and providing a support plan in terms of raised expectations and, resource implications. In cases where the caring role is minimal it may a more consumerate response to support maybe through signposting and information.

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

Yes

No

Comments: Yes Angus Council supports the proposal to remove the wording about the carer's 'ability to care. This can be interpreted by carers as a judgement of the carer's competence rather than their willingness to provide care. In Angus we do not undertake an assessment to decide if carers care on a regular and substantial basis, rather it is based on a duty to assess approach based on need. Equally under SDS support will be provided to the carer based on the resource allocation system derived from identified need and the carer's individual circumstances.

We support the proposal to remove the substantial and regular test so that all carers will be eligible for the Carer's Support Plan. This will also remove uncertainty in respect of inconsistency in how the definition is interpreted and applied.

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 Angus Council believes that timescales about carer's support plans should be agreed and delivered against locally agreed service standards. In Angus we have developed a Self Directed Support pathway which sets out timescales for assessment and support planning. These have been developed in partnership with the Angus carers planning group.

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

Comments: Angus Council supports the assertion that improvements can be made to the assessment process to make it easier for service users and carers to move from one part of the country to another. We agree that the Scottish Government and COSLA should take this forward and review existing protocols between local authorities.

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 7: 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 do not believe there is a need to introduce a duty for Local Authorities in this area. We would assert that this information should be developed and produced in through local planning structures to reflect local need and demand. In Angus an information booklet, supported by a wide range of fact sheets, is being finalised to ensure ease of access for service users, carers and the wider public to inform them about the range of services and activities available from statutory, private and voluntary organisations. Eligibility criteria about level of service will be included. We have also established a communication and engagement plan under Health and social care integration that will support this area for adult carers.

Based on the above we do not believe that it is not necessary to introduce a duty to establish and maintain a service for providing people with information and advice.

Question 8: 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 support the proposal to repeal section 12 of the Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 2002 in respect to the publication and submission of Carer information Strategies to Scottish Ministers. Angus Council would argue that this will be achieved through the implementation of Self Directed Support and the development of integration schemes under health and social care integration.

Support to Carers (other than information and advice)

Question 9: Should we introduce a duty to support carers and young carers, linked to an eligibility framework?

Yes

No

Comments: We believe that the introduction of eligibility criteria should be introduced and managed locally based on population planning activity and spend. In Angus we have developed an eligibility framework for adult social work services based on risk.

This process is based on the principles of transparency and equity. Staff and the public will be clear about how their support is assessed and how resources are allocated to meet agreed outcomes. Eligibility will be linked to managing levels of risk. In Angus based on the level of resources available to the Council a ceiling will be set at the same level as the national care home rate where applicable. This currently only applies to older people. For other care groups the ceiling will be set at the average cost of equivalent residential provision used in the previous year.

Question 10: Alternatively, should we retain the existing discretionary power to support carers and young carers?

Yes

No

Comments: please refer to the answer given to question 9

Question 11: Should we introduce a duty to provide short breaks?

Yes

No

Angus Council is opposed to introducing a duty in this area and believes that this decision should fully rest with local authorities taking into consideration the resources available to them and should not be pre-determined at a national level.

We are opposed to the proposal that the whole costs of a short break should be met by the local authority. This creates unrealistic expectations about how far the public purse can be utilised to support carers' choices. The population as a whole incurs costs associated with everyday living, socialisation, engaging in the community in which we live. We would suggest that by using an SDS approach carers can determine how resources allocated to them, under the four options and this resource can be used to meet their needs and agreed outcomes.

Stages and Transitions

Question 12: 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: Angus Council supports the proposal that young carers who may become adult carers will have a right to a Carer Support Plan whether or not they are receiving children's services. We would assert that this would work in conjunction with the Child's Plan (if they have one) with a clear focus on the caring role.

Question 13: 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 respect of young carers support plans we would advocate that young carers should instead have their wellbeing assessed within the GIRFEC framework. Consideration should also be given as to whether they require a Child's Plan under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill.

Carer Involvement

Question 14: 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:

In Angus the health and social care Partnership makes provision for the inclusion of carer organisations and carers in the planning and delivery of services. This is currently managed locally through the Angus Carers Planning Group. Under integration arrangements will be made under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Bill for the involvement of both service users and carers and carers' organisations in the planning and design of services through the strategic planning and locality planning processes. We believe there is a danger of duplicating these arrangements in the proposals outlined in the carers' Bill.

Question 15: 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 would argue that clear Provision for carers involvement will be made under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Bill for the involvement by integration authorities of both service users and carers and carers' organisations. In Angus this includes the planning and design of services through the strategic planning and locality planning processes. Equally for young carers this provision is set out in the Children and Young People Act.

Question 16: 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

Question 17: 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:

The Children and Young People Act places duties on public bodies to coordinate the planning, design and delivery of services for children and young people. We believe that the focus should be on improving wellbeing outcomes, and report collectively on how they are improving those outcomes.

Planning and Delivery

Question 18: 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 carer's strategies which must be kept under review and updated every three years?

Yes

No

Comments:

In Angus planning for carer's support is delivered on a partnership basis. The Angus Carers Strategy 2013-2016 is a partnership document that sets out the key priorities for planning services for carers during the period 2013-2016. The strategy works to ensure that carer's needs are central to the planning process, improving how statutory and voluntary organisations shape services and

implement national and local policy.

We do believe that it is necessary to introduce a statutory provision in this area. We would argue that partners should be plan and deliver services to carers that best meet the local outcomes set out in local partnership agreements (SOA) supported by the Community Planning Partnership.

Question 19: 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 should be set out in local carer's strategies and integration schemes for health and social care developed in partnership with carers.

Identification

Question 20: 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 would argue that it is important for the Local Authority to support the identification of carer's as part of the work of the partnership. Our fundamental concern in relation to maintaining a Carers Register to promote identification is that it could lead to multiple Registers and varying local information. This could lead to duplication of activity and data for planning and service delivery purposes.

We would also argue that here would also need to be compliance with data protection legislation to ensure that consent and confidentiality issues are clearly defined.

Question 21: 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 not answered as it relates more specifically to the CHP and health boards.

Question 22: Should the Scottish Government ask Health Boards to monitor compliance with the core contractual elements of the GP contract?

Yes

No

Comments: Question not answered as they relate more specifically to the CHP

Carer and Cared-for Person(s) in Different Local Authority Areas

Question 23: 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 should be consistent with the Scottish Ordinary Residence Guidance. If there is to be a duty on local authorities to provide support, we believe that it must be explicitly clear as to which Local Authority is responsible and therefore subject to the duty.

Question 24: What are the views of respondents on which local authority should cover the costs of support to the carer in these circumstances?

Comments: This should be consistent with the Scottish Ordinary Residence guidance. A review of the guidance by Scottish Government and COSAL to incorporate carer's issues would be helpful.

Question 25: Should the Scottish Government with COSLA produce guidance for local authorities?

Yes

No

Comments: