

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

Comments: Changing the name "Carer's Assessment" may not alter problems faced previously, e.g. services being recommended not being available, but it may give carers confidence that an ongoing Support Plan will be put in place with realistic actions.

The language is also simpler and much clearer

Question 2: Should we remove the substantial and regular test so that all carers will be eligible for the Carer's Support Plan?

Yes

Comments: Support Plans should be made available to all carers, whether self referred or referred by a statutory or third sector agency. There will be capacity issues, but these could be overcome with joint working by all agencies.

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?

No

Comments: The local authority should have responsibility for the cared for person.

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

Comments: Local Authority making an offer should be statutory, but also through a third sector agency, such as the local Carers Centres.

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

No

Comments: No comments

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

Comments: A time limit for completing the assessment/plan and putting the recommendations in place should be laid down in guidance. Some plans may take longer if multiple service provision is involved, but carers must be advised of any delay with a satisfactory reason for that delay. This is good practice and should be common courtesy.

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

Comments: Continuity is essential – if a new assessment needs to be carried out, the old one should remain in place until the new arrangements are fully complete.

Question 8: Should the Scottish Government and COSLA with relevant interests work together to take forward improvements to the portability of assessment?

Yes

Comments: Any support to take this forward would be welcome

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

Comments: It is vital that Support Plans are consistent across Scotland. A new improved national Support Plan should be designed with carer, statutory and third sector involvement.

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

Comments: Carer Information Strategies are now out of date as there is so much more than information for carers required. Joint Carer Strategies between local health boards and local authorities should be available with all service providers working together to ensure continuous demonstrable improvement for all aspects of carers lives.

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?

No

Comments: Criteria is limiting, requires discretion

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

Yes

Comments: Retaining discretionary power is important

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

Comments: This would benefit from further discussion as social and health care evolves

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

Comments: This would ensure a more consistent approach and provide clarity and set a required standard

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

Comments: Young Carers who move into adulthood should be offered an assessment/plan.

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 out with the scope of integration?

Yes

Comments: No comments

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

Comments: No comments

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

Comments: As a principle this needs to be fundamental and every opportunity should be taken to establish involvement

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: This is very important and should be an absolute requirement; however we need to make sure that involvement is meaningful.

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 carers strategies which must be kept under review and updated every three years?

Yes

Comments: This would give status and would make sure that we involve the right people in the process

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

Comments: Carers should be involved in decision making and may need the services of an advocate to do this. There should be clear guidelines and details of services available to enable informed choices to be made.

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

Comments: It is important that all primary care providers maintain a register of known carers to ensure any required support is provided at the point of identification.

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

Comments: Shared information is shared learning.

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

Yes

Comments: Anything written into a Contract should be subject to monitoring.

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: It should be the local authority that the cared-for person lives that is responsible for supporting the carer.

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

Comments: As question 23.

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

Yes

Comments: Guidance should be agreed between service providers and carers organisations and be supported by legislation. It is essential that the Carers Support Plan is a national plan, ensuring equality of opportunity/support for all carers across Scotland.