

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:

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:

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:

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 any move that will make it easier for carers to access a Carers Support Plan

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

Yes

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

No

Comments: Yes the onus should be on local authorities to inform carers of time scales. Carers have enough pressures on their time without having to contact their local authority to find out when they will have receive their support plan.

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

Comments:

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: Young carers and their families tell us they find it difficult to obtain information and advice from their local authority. Young carers and their families would welcome any move to make it easier for them to access information regarding what help might be available to them.

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 acknowledge that the integration of health and social care will make this provision redundant. However we have found that the need for our local Health Board to submit a Carer Information Strategy has resulted in greater recognition of young carers needs and the funding of targeted services for young

carers. We would not like to see these positive outcomes disappear when Carer Information Strategies are no longer required.

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: While we support introducing a duty to support carers and young carers we are concerned that the introduction of an eligibility framework may unintentionally exclude some groups of carers.

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

Yes

No

Comments: We would favour introducing a duty to support young carers as the current discretionary power has not resulted in the consistent recognition of young carers especially before they or their family reach a crisis point.

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

Yes

No

Comments: Young carers tell us that they very much enjoy having regular short breaks from their caring role. The regular breaks help them to cope with the demands of caring and gives them some time to be a child first and a carer second. Although there is now recognition when planning services that adult carers should be able to access a regular break from caring in our experience this has not yet been reflected in planning services for children and young people.

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 the introduction of guidance which would provide staff with the framework to ensure consistent good practice in the provision of carers support plans.

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: transitions between children's and adult services can be a stressful and difficult time. For young carers entering into adulthood and negotiating how to balance moving into further education or employment with caring it is important that seamless support is available to them on leaving children's services to help them plan the next stage of their lives successfully.

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:

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:

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 would welcome the opportunity for young carers to be involved in care planning for service users in a way that would be appropriate for their age.

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 welcome the inclusion of young carers in the planning, shaping and delivery of services to cared for people and support for young carers. How to achieve this would need to be considered carefully ensuring that the process was truly accessible to young carers and age appropriate.

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: Local authorities and Health Boards need to listen to the experiences and needs of carers and young carers and fully incorporate their views into carer strategies. Strategies should have clear measurable outcomes and these should be reviewed and updated at a minimum of every three years.

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: Young carers have told us they would like easily accessible friendly services that meet their needs. They also need help when they are identified and not be put on a long waiting list.

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 eleven years of operation we have had less than ten referrals from GPs. Most people who require care will see a GP. GP's come into contact with a significant number of young carers but refer very few to support services.

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: Good practice should be ensured and regularly monitored to check it is delivering good outcomes for carers.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

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:

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:

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

Yes

No

Comments: