

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:

We would support the views of carers within South Lanarkshire in changing the terminology to 'carers support plan' from 'carer's assessment' and to remove the negative connotation of assessing a carer's 'ability' to care, though we do feel that there are some practice issues in terms of the carer's assessment/carers support plan.

Whilst we certainly support the view that a strengths based approach is required and terminology does need to change, we feel practice issues are arguably of more concern in supporting carers, indeed carers report this.

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 would not support removing the 'regular and substantial test' and early comments from some carers within South Lanarkshire support this, with a view to targeting support/resources to those carers within greatest need.

Removing the test could potentially open up support to people who may quite simply be good neighbours (running errands for an older person etc). However, in driving consistency, ultimately we would like to see the same definition used by all LAs in relation to 'regular and substantial'.

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:

We would support the proposal that a carer should be able to request support from the LA (assessment of need) if services are not provided to the cared-for person (such as for example if the cared-for person is accessing health services only). In practice, we would not envisage this proposal to have a major impact in terms of resourcing at present but with integration we would want to explore the potential impact of this further.

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:

Carers should have direct access for the consideration of their support requirements and local authorities should identify carers' needs more readily. A variety of routes should be available.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

Yes, although carers are clear that this wording is not helpful and also raise issues about how interpretation of this presents in practice. The change in terminology would be welcomed.

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:

Good social work practice should promote reasonable working time frames, we would expect social work staff to inform carers of the process of the carer's assessment from start to finish.

We are aware from our consultation with carers that in practice carer experiences of the assessment process can vary considerably.

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

Comments:

This has not been raised as a significant issue in our area and in our feedback from carers but we do support the need for some more research in this area as longer-distance caring increases because of geographical and social mobility. Changing demographics, the need to support older people and to respond to culturally diverse communities would necessitate further work in this area.

We understand as children (young carers) move from one local authority area to another that the Child's Plan will be governed by that respective legislation.

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:

Yes, as per our comments above. We would support further work in this area.

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:

Structures are already in place within South Lanarkshire in terms of providing information and advice to carers but the proposed legislation affords an opportunity to review and improve the services' ability to support and represent carers in terms of exercising their rights and accessing information.

Carers are aware of local resources, however they report there being room for improvement.

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:

The Integration of Health and Social Care will support the need to repeal section 12 funding however monies should continue to be dedicated specifically to carers.

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:

Eligibility criteria will be required in order to allocate resources to those carers most in need, but we must be very mindful that Caring Together (the national carers' strategy) promotes preventative working. Carers needing lower level support should be able to access this timeously and easily.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

See above. We would support introducing a legal duty.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

Though many carers support introducing a duty, carers may get a short break as part of their assessment and by introducing support as a duty, the output of a short break may result in an outcome for the carer.

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:

Introducing statutory guidance is welcomed as this will increase consistency and drive up practice standards. We would note caution with the terminology 'managing the stages of caring' as caring is not a linear process.

A commitment to managing and acknowledging the stages of caring though will support the transition for young carers through to adulthood.

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:

This would be dependent on the individual needs of young carers as with adult carers but should be incorporated into the legislation to uphold young carers'

rights.

We support the proposal that young carers before turning 18 will have the right to a Carer's Support Plan/assessment irrespective of whether or not they are receiving children's services.

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:

Yes, of course. The challenge remains though that meaningful carer involvement should also be flexible. It should not rest solely with those carers who (with respect) are more able to attend conferences/events to provide feedback. Carers who by definition cannot leave their caring responsibilities do need to be more fully engaged and consulted with and officers continue to think creatively in how wider carer input for those who may wish to be 'involved in some respect can be promoted'.

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:

Carers' organisations do need to be involved. Areas raised from parent carers within South Lanarkshire include e.g. in relation to improving and building upon links they have with Education in relation to planning, shaping and the delivery of services.

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:

Establishing a new principle would ensure greater consistency nationally to involve

carers and young carers in the planning process. This would ensure carers are involved in the planning of services out with the scope of integration (eg: children with additional needs).

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:

Young carer involvement would drive up practice standards and this local authority has good systems and processes in place already in terms of young carers' support, involvement in planning, shaping and delivery of services.

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 happens in our area which is reflected by an active partnership collaboration with carers and partner agencies. We continue to consider our potential for improvement e.g. in the streamlining of CIS funding though and a closer merging of strategic roles. Getting 'back to basics' and understanding what carers want and need is a cornerstone of our partnership in which the partnership aspires to making best use of local resources.

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 is not simply about the provision of services but the *quality* of those services and the outcomes achieved from accessing them. Through our partnership we aspire to continue to review of existing provision/models and

feedback from carers to inform future commissioning arrangements .

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:

We feel this does not need to be legislated for given that this is unlikely to lead to little change in practice – see below.

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:

Our view would be that sharing good practice examples amongst Health Boards will drive up standards and we would encourage this. Some carers speak of the excellent support received from their GP practices in South Lanarkshire but we are keen to see this further replicated across Scotland.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

Yes. GPs are often the first point of contact for carers and should be as accountable as any other organisations that carers come into contact with for support.

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 believe that the local authority in which the carer supports the cared-for person should be responsible for undertaking the CSP/assessment and work in partnership with carers in identifying sources of support .

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:

As above

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

Yes

No

Comments:

This would be welcomed given that geographical mobility/caring is likely to become more of an issue.