

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: This is essential to prevent any carer slipping through the net.

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:

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

Comments: For me, not a lot. However the significance increases particularly if both a carer and cared-for person move to a different LA to obtain services not offered by their current LA.

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: Critical with the advent of SDS. Why are carers, who effectively provide a full-time - albeit unpaid – to local authorities, not covered by employment law? Every other employer has to provide the employee with 28 days leave per year. If applied to local authorities this would iron out inequalities between carers in the same local authority and those in different local authorities across Scotland.

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:

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:

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

Yes

No

Comments:

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

Yes

No

Comments: As stated in the consultation document, many carers do not want short breaks, as there is concern that this could end up as the sole means of support provided. Carers want a range of support, including in-house residential, off-site residential, holidays, etc.

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:

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:

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: As you say in the document: *Carers have a unique role in the life of the person they care for. When we are planning and delivering care for that person, it's important that we involve their carer. They have valuable knowledge to contribute and any decision will have an impact on their caring role.* For far too long LA's have 'delivered' services to carers without involving them in any form of consultation.

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: There are numerous national and local carers associations who are striving to be heard. They should be involved at the very start, and continuously including provide feedback on the efficiency of the legislation and it's implemwntation, and the quality and scope of delivered 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: See above

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: I have no involvement with young carers; however they need as much, if not more, support as adult carers as their load is likely to be relatively heavier and longer term.

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: With the joining of health and social work organisations there is an opportunity for either massive amounts of bureaucracy with few deliveries, or the reverse – minimal bureaucracy and considerable delivery of services. Both organsitions must be led, by legislation if necessary, to the latter.

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: See above

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: There should be a legislative provision. Given that adult carers are known to suffer more from depression and have earlier death rates than other sectors of the population, GP's should have a statutory obligation to check carers for depression or other illnesses on a regular (6 monthly?) basis and report their finding to Care Managers for action.

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: See above

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

Yes

No

Comments: See above

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: This makes sense and avoids the 'falling between two stools' trap.

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: We in Angus have already been told the all costs of support will come from the personal SDS entitlement.

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

Yes

No

Comments: