

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: The Stirling Carers' Voice believes that the name should be changed from Carer's Assessment to Carer's Support Plan. They feel that the word 'assessment' can be quite judgemental and have negative connotations regarding the carer's ability to provide care. However in reality a Carer's Assessment can ensure that carers get the support they require, therefore a name change will hopefully highlight the positive impact that the undertaking of this process can make to lives of the carers who receive it. Therefore, changing the name to a Carer's Support Plan suggests more of a progressive and proactive response to planning support and meeting the individual needs of carers.

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: In Stirling there is a large focus on identification and provision of basic services to prevent the escalation and impact that caring can have on a carer's health and well-being. Removing the 'substantial and regular test' ensures that all carers are eligible for a Carer's Support Plan, and that these are carried out as early in the caring journey as possible and not when carers reach crisis point. Removing the 'substantial and regular test' element will hopefully further promote the benefits to carers and professionals of the importance of this document for carers.

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: The Stirling Carers' Voice believes that the introduction of the two routes would be beneficial. In particular, they feel that enabling the carer to have the ability to request a Carer's Support Plan is important to ensure that carers are empowered and treated as equal partners in the provision of care. However in relation to the undertaking of the Support Plan, they wanted to stress that they would feel more comfortable if the assessment was carried out by an independent agency who would submit the information on their behalf to the local authority. The group felt that this is currently working well in Stirling where the local Carers Centre undertakes the assessment and works in partnership with the local authority to address any recommendations contained within the assessment – therefore they see no need for this relationship to change.

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: In Stirling the process for receiving a Carers Assessment/Support Plan is currently working well, with the assessment generally being undertaken by the Stirling Carers Centre. However the Stirling Carers Voice feel that it is then imperative that the support that follows on from this is offered in a timely fashion, as carers have experienced varying levels of response rates from the local authority. Therefore, the group feel that this should be taken further and that there should not just be a duty on the timescale to carry out a Carer's Support Plan, but following this there should then be a duty on using the available resources to ensure that support is provided in a timely fashion. Without the follow-up support, the Carer's Support Plan would lose value.

There should also be an emphasis on the reviewing of Carer's Support Plans to ensure that they are a live document, where support can be altered depending on the changing needs of the carer and their caring situation. The carer should have the ability to request a review, as the Support Plan should be flexible in order to meet their needs.

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: It is important to ensure that carers are aware of their rights and to promote the importance of early intervention and timely support. However, the

group believe that there is a role here for local voluntary organisations with the relevant expertise and impartiality to provide this information and advice, i.e. Carers Centres.

Bringing in this duty could also mean protecting the key existing services, however it is crucial that carers have their say locally on what is working well and who the best provider of information and advice is. Carers must be treated as equal partners and involved in shaping the support services that meet their individual needs.

In addition, if there is a duty then there must also be secure funding to services to ensure that carers in all local authorities receive the same high level of service.

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: The Stirling Carers' Voice unanimously believes that it is essential that there is a duty to provide support to carers and young carers. Without the right support at the right time, many carers can experience feelings of isolation and stress, which in turn can have a negative impact on their health and well-being. Therefore, it is imperative that as well as an emphasis on identification and access to information, there is a specific duty to provide support.

The group does however have concerns surrounding the eligibility criteria, and feels that more information on this would be beneficial. The concern is that by bringing the duty in, may result in a high threshold for accessing this support. All stakeholders, i.e. carers, local authority, health board, carer organisations, etc., should be involved in formulating the substance of any eligibility framework, to ensure that it is fair and takes account of available resources.

In addition, if the criteria for support is not met within the eligibility framework, then the group feel that individual carers should have the right to access legal representation to challenge any neglect of duty. This would ensure that there would be accountability and that carers would know and be able to challenge the local authority in regards to their rights.

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: It is imperative that carers have the opportunity to get a break from their caring role to support them to both sustain their caring role and live a life outwith. Therefore, the group feel that there should be a duty to provide short breaks. However it is crucial that there is the availability of a range of short break opportunities, and that carers have the choice to access the break that best meets their needs. Providing this duty ensures that emphasis is directed towards prevention, which in turn will hopefully avoid carers reaching crisis point.

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:

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:

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:

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:

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:

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:

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:

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: