

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: There should be a duty on local authorities to offer all carers a plan. Eligibility needs to be clear and standardised throughout Scotland – must not lose sight of the importance of low-level preventative support – this needs to be accommodated.

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: Carers needs need to be looked at independently – cared for may refuse services but carer may be desperate – need to be able to access support even though cared for may not be in receipt of community care or children's services.

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:

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

Yes

No

Comments: Carers need to be seen as individuals – some people have stronger coping mechanisms than others and external factors need to be taken account of – such as are carers working, do they have other family responsibilities.

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: Some concern about interpretation if there are different levels of support – again needs to be standardised to avoid different interventions by different local authorities. Services offered need to be the same across the board and the plan needs to be transferrable from one authority to another. Guidance is not sufficient – need to have legislative duties otherwise will not achieve consistency and standardisation.

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: There should be a duty to provide information. Many carers still not being signposted to support or offered an assessment. Carers unaware of their rights. There needs to be ring-fenced funding to ensure that carers have access to

information and that gatekeepers are signposting and referring carers for support.

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: Some concern around eligibility – need to know what eligibility will involve to be able to make an informed decision. Majority felt that all carers should be able to access support and concern that many of the low-level needs may not be met which will then lead to the development of a crisis situation. Main issue should be to keep carers as healthy as possible and not just put support in when they become unwell and unable to cope. For many carers planning for the future is very important and gives piece of mind – may not need help now but would like to know what could be put in place in the event of emergency.

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: Local authorities should provide and promote short breaks.

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: Robust guidance is required – this is very important for parent carers. The system can be very slow to respond which causes stress and anxiety. Transitions need to be planned for and be open and transparent – parents need to know what options are available. All transitions need to be well -planned whether for the carer or cared for person

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: It is important for local authorities to have strategies and for carers to be involved in developing the strategy. Carers needs should be met with particular regard not only to crisis intervention but also early intervention so that carers are supported to stay well and to be able to continue to care if they wish to.

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: It is important for local authorities to have strategies and for young carers to be involved in developing the strategy.

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: Hospital Discharge - Carers should be identified at the point of admission and involved as equal partners in care right through to discharge. All staff should have carer awareness training

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 duty for GPs and local authorities to keep a carers register and should also include a duty to inform carers about services that are available to support them and their rights.
GP registers should be able to be cross-referenced with hospital records.
Hospitals should identify carers at the point of admission.

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: Services offered need to be the same across the board and the plan needs to be transferable from one authority to another

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: The proposals and duties need to be monitored. Funding needs to be ring-fenced for carers and statutory services need to be made accountable.