

East Dunbartonshire Joint Carers Working Group

This Working Group is comprised of staff from East Dunbartonshire Council, East Dunbartonshire Community Health Partnership, Carers Link East Dunbartonshire and local Carers. The consultation was discussed and there were many areas of agreement. Being a diverse group there were also alternative opinions of some issues which have been included below. This submission has been compiled from the available responses as not all members of the group were present or subsequently able to contribute. Some issues were not discussed due to time constraints and these have been left blank

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

- Change from 'Carer's Assessment' to increase take up and encourage more carers to come forward for support.
- Levels of Carer Support Plans will vary depending on the impact of their caring role; some may need only a 'light touch' approach with regular reviews.
- Plans will be more personalised and will focus on achieving better outcomes for the carer.

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

Eligibility – all carers regardless of the level of care they provide should be eligible for a Carer's Support Plan.

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

Eligibility – all carers regardless of the level of care they provide should be eligible for a Carer’s Support Plan.

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

Both routes should be available to obtain a Carer’s 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

LA should have a duty to set realistic waiting times, advise individuals of these and explain reasons if waiting times are exceeded

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

Carers Assessment should be undertaken by the carer’s LA area and should act as a ‘passport’ in the event of the carer moving to another LA area, this will allow continued support to the carer until a new assessment is undertaken by new 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

Improvements to the portability of assessments would be welcomed

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

Some members of the Joint working Group thought this should be a duty, while other members thought that rather than **a duty**, it should be **a recommendation** as other services should also be doing this.

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

Some members of the Joint Working Group took the view that as Health currently prepare the Carer Information Strategy this would be replaced assuming funding was available following the integration of Social Care and Health to develop a new Joint Carers' Strategy, and that support for carers from Health Boards must still be maintained.

Another view disagreed with the above and considered that the sharing of information between Boards as to the effectiveness of initiatives developed as a result of the CIS monies is useful and should be encouraged. Guidance should continue to be provided with the funding to ensure appropriate spend.

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

- LA's should have a duty to ensure available and appropriate support for adult carers and young carers in accordance with their support plans
- Eligibility Criteria – a national eligibility framework should be co-produced with carers.
- LA's to develop a local eligibility framework to include preventative support

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

- LA's should have a duty to *promote* short breaks as is reasonable and practicable.
- LA's to develop a local eligibility framework to include preventative support and 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

Statutory guidance should be issued on the Carers' Support Plan which will take into account how the different stages of caring can affect individuals.

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

Young Carers approaching 18 years should have a support plan in place to enable smooth transition into becoming an adult carer so that they receive continued support

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

.Carers to be involved in shaping services within their community and be actively involved in strategic planning and commissioning groups.

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

Carers and carers' organisations should be involved in the planning, shaping and 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

The core principles which underpin carer involvement should be embedded within the Carers Legislation Bill. However attention should be paid to avoiding any potential conflict between parts of the provision of the Carers Legislation Bill with the Mental Health (Scotland) Bill and Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Bill.

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?

Young Carers should be involved in the planning, shaping and delivery of services for cared-for people and support for young carers.

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

LA and Health Boards should involve and collaborate with carer's, and carers' organisations in the development of a local carers' strategy which should include young carers.

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

LA and Health Boards should ensure there are sufficient services to meet the needs of carers as is reasonable and practicable

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

There was a lack of agreement amongst the group about legislation for GP practices or LA to develop/maintain a carers' register to support the identification of carers. Some members felt there should be such legislation, especially for GP practices to identify those who never come into contact with social work services.

Another view agreed that there should be no such legislation but that GP practices should be **encouraged** to develop/maintain a carers' register. These registers at GP surgeries could be used to encourage carers to request a support plan.

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

GP should refer carers for an assessment and trigger regular reviews to determine changes in carers' circumstances and further supports to maintain health and well-being. Good practice should be shared.

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

Yes

No

Scottish Government should place a duty on Health Boards to monitor compliance with the GP contract.

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: