

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?

√ Not for Young Carers

Comments: The Child's plan should be the used to assess need, and provide the support to enable the young carer to manage their caring role and have a life beyond caring. This is consistent with the GIRFEC principals.

Question 2: Should we remove the substantial and regular test so that all carers will be eligible for the Carer's Support Plan?

√ Not applicable to young carers

Comments: Carer's support plan should be considered at the point of transition to adult services if it is likely that their caring responsibilities will continue into adulthood.

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**

Comments: Should be part of the Child's Plan for young carers. This is particularly important in relation to young carers where the cared-for person does not want to obtain support or does not recognise the need for support.

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?

√ **Not applicable to young carers**

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

√ **Yes**

Comments: This is a barrier to young carers accessing the support they need to enable them to achieve a life / carer balance.

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?

√ **Not applicable to young carers until point of transition**

Comments: Should be part of the Child's plan.

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

Comments: Young carers should have a child's plan this is portable, shared and regularly reviewed to reflect their current need. They also need to be signposted to services that can help them.

Question 8: Should the Scottish Government and COSLA with relevant interests work together to take forward improvements to the portability of assessment?

√ **Yes**

Comments: Young carers and carer representatives should be involved in all stages of the assessment. Plans and outcomes should be accepted wherever the carer goes.

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**

Comments: This should be a shared duty between the NHS and the local authority. Young Carers should have access to relevant information and it should be available to them in a medium that they are likely to access.

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**

Comments: Health Boards and Local Authorities should continue to develop strategies for the support of Carers and funding is required to maintain essential services for Carers. Recurring funding should be available to avoid short-term planning and the insecurity in providing ongoing support.

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?

√ **No**

Comments: There should be a duty to support young carers, but not linked to an eligibility framework. An eligibility framework will inevitably lead to assessment and gate keeping of services which is not helpful if a preventative approach is being implemented.

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

√ **Yes**

Comments:

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

√ **No**

Comments: We should provide young carers with the outcomes that suit them. Short breaks and respite for young carers may be appropriate, but we need to have a creative, innovative approach to providing opportunities for them (networking, access to leisure activities, respite for the cared-for person to give the young carer a break) Evidence from Highland indicates that there have been some innovative use of funding to provide support for young carers (e.g. hire of camper van to enable the young carer and their family to have a break together, time out with other young carers to go to the cinema, opportunities to build skills through short training courses) .

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).

√ **Not applicable to young carers**

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**

Comments: Transition planning should take account of a young carer becoming a young adult carer, but care should be taken so that it is not assumed that the young carer will take on this role into adult hood. The young carer should be supported to achieve a balance between their caring role and potential career opportunities.

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**

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**

Comments: where relevant and where value is added by doing so

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**

Comments: Yes this would be helpful

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 people need to be involved in the shaping of services and support for young carers. The type of services and support they need changes over time as their caring responsibilities change and as expectations change.

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?

√ **No**

Comments: It is good practice to involve relevant organisations and carers in the development of carer strategies

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?

√ **No**

Comments: This should be covered by each areas strategic approach to supporting carers

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**

Comments: GP registers have been seen to be helpful to ensure that GPs are signposting carers to support services and a mechanism to encourage practices to develop these registers and update them should be put in place. However the register in itself does nothing to help carers and does not help us to identify those who are hard to reach.

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**

Comments: This will help to ensure that the register has some purpose

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

√ **Yes**

Comments: Alongside an expectation that all GP practices will undertake carer awareness training for all staff in the practice including GPs

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: The local authority where the carer lives should undertake or arrange for the carer to have a CSP so that best use can be made of local resources/support networks.

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: The Local Authority where the carer lives should meet the costs of support direct to the carer. Costs associated with short breaks/respite arising from the care of the cared –for person should be paid by the Local authority where that person lives.

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

√ **Yes**

Comments: Should be done in partnership with carer organisations.