

## 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: Only if support actually happens. Not simply a lexical fig-leaf.

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: Once we are caring for someone, that caring will continue until circumstances change. If there is no change, we continue to care; there should be no need to *keep* proving this. It feels as if we are not trusted, or else misunderstands that some cared-for people will not recover, possibly forever.

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: Not everyone is able to access care services, but this does not mean they do not need caring for.

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: Possibly, but this would mean the local authority making a *meaningful* offer, not just a minimum to save face or stave off litigation for failing their duties and responsibilities.

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

Yes

No

Comments: There is no need for formal qualifications to be a carer; it is the dynamic between the carer and the cared-for, and what is done, that matters.

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: The more information, the better. Local Authorities can often take months to respond or act; they should be required to give reasons. A mechanism to challenge slow movement on such issues would also help.

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

Comments: Very. The needs of the cared-for are unlikely to change, so a portable assessment of need and resource would save the time that a new LA would take to re-assess the same people and their situation when only their geographical location has changed. There should be a similar level of delivery across the whole country, not LA by LA variation.

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: So long as timeframes for action are added.

### 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: Advice is fragmented across the voluntary sector; it could only help if there were a 'one stop' solution to getting advice that does *not* change depending on LA and whom in the LA knows what.

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: Support – yes. Eligibility – no. A carer is a carer.

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

Yes

No

Comments: Discretion is often used as a mechanism to deny provision of support and save money.

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

Yes

No

Comments: Absolutely in order to reduce the stress and negative health impacts on the carer. But, this should only be done once it is established that the cared-for person is to be cared for during the carer's absence. Otherwise, anxiety of the carer is likely to increase, not reduce.

## 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: Guidance and advice; not a compulsory requirement to follow as the carer knows best what works on a 24:7 basis.

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: Of course.

## 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: Carers and their knowledge are already ignored or marginalised; there should be a requirement to consult and, where their advice is *not* followed, the LA should give reasons.

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: Again, carers' organisation know the situation faced by carers better than LAs do. Also, some carers are not the best advocates for themselves as they do not know what is possible and available.

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: Of course; involve the people involved in the caring.

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: Sensible, but needs to be tempered with respect to maturity and knowledge.

## 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: Yes, so long as an element of choice remains so that the carers cannot be told what to take and what not to take. There also should be a genuine and specialised *choice*.

## 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: But registration should only be with permission, and not done without the carer's knowledge.

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: GPs, like other professionals, need to do better and need more tools to so do.

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

Yes

No

Comments: It is easy for GPs to 'forget' or not know or not act; supervisory compliance is often needed to 'convince' GPs to act.

## 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: Clearly sensible.

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: Support should come from the LA of the carer as *that* is where the support is delivered.

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

Yes

No

Comments: Provided that, as always, those involved are trained and experienced in such matters.