

Paper 2: Ongoing activities-Carers Act update

Section 28 Short Life Working Group

- There is a short life working group (SLWG) looking at how section 28 (carer involvement in the hospital discharge of cared-for person) of the Carers Act is working.
- That group is considering how funding and efforts can be targeted to support and share good practice. The group includes SG officials who deal with **Daily Dynamic Discharge (DDD)**.
- Following discussions in the SLWG, the DDD network was identified as a key source of good practice in involving carers in discharge. Local teams were asked and have recently responded to the following key questions through the DDD network:
- The responses highlighted a broad range of existing good practice and suggestions for improvements. We now wish to explore provision of short term funding to DDD teams to support both evaluation of existing good practice and development and testing of some of the suggested improvements. There is some flexibility with funding. The work would also help to inform development of resources by NES.

Children's Services Short Life Working Group

- We are currently finalising the details of funding for a part time post holder in the third sector (through Carers Trust and the Scottish Young Carers Services Alliance) to coordinate a number of the actions recommended by the short life working group. This includes holding stalls at key education events to raise awareness of young carers in schools, work with others to produce Carers Act information targeted at head teachers and to identify existing resources that could be disseminated to support teachers' awareness and support of young carers in schools.
- The Children's Commissioner will be writing an opinion piece on young carers for Teaching Scotland, the General Teaching Council's (GTC) magazine that goes out to all registered teachers in Scotland. The article will look to raise teacher's awareness of young carers, their new rights under the Carers Act and to help them understand what their role is in supporting them in education.
- We are still in discussion about the development of a professional recognition package for teachers via the Association of Directors of Education Scotland (ADES), the GTC and others. This proposal is currently under discussion between ADES, the GTC and senior academics at the University of Dundee.

Waiving of Charges Short Life Working Group

- The group has met twice, agreed its remit and approach (See appendix 1). It is currently focusing on developing worked examples to supplement the existing Waiving of Charges guidance.
- There are five Social Work Scotland reps contributing to this work, alongside the Scottish Government, COSLA, Shared Care Scotland and IJB Directors of Finance.

Carers Act Transformation Support (CATS) Fund

- A budget of around £0.5 million has been set aside to provide funding to third sector organisations to allow them to gear up for supporting the implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 (“the Act”) in 2018/19 through help with funding for transformation costs.
- The main purpose of this Scottish Government short term funding is to develop local capacity through improvements to systems or technology etc. rather than delivering direct services or support to carers (which is funded locally).
- The Carers Act Transformation Support (CATS) Fund closed for applications on 3rd August. SCVO is currently assessing the applications from third sector organisations in order to provide them with funding. Awards will be made soon to successful applicants.
- To date 26 applications have been successful with funding and another three are pending. The total funding of successful and pending applications is between £228,393 and £326,654.
- We are currently considering whether there is scope for a further opening of the fund for applications later this year.
- Some examples of what the CATS funding will be used for includes installation of Customer Relationship Management (CRM) systems; database development; purchase of webinar equipment; software licences; staff training; website development; tablets and laptops for staff.

Carers Strategic Policy Statement

- SG Carers Policy Team will be co-ordinating development of a Carers Strategic Policy Statement to replace the previous carers strategy and young carers strategy (which ran to 2015). We expect this to issue next year.
- Initial thinking is that this will be a short document, setting out the Scottish Government’s overall priorities for carers (including delivery of the Carers Act) in the new context of integration of health and social care; reform of adult social care; devolution of social security etc. Also that it will be mainly about consolidation, and delivering the benefits of existing reforms, in particular implementation of the Carers Act and social security changes.
- We will be keen to have input from ISG members as we develop our thinking on this.

Carers Act Finance Group

- The group is focusing on identifying and mitigating financial risks associated with implementing the Carers Act but also on collecting robust data in order that we can demonstrate the financial impact of the Act.
- The group are due to meet in September to consider whether there is any evidence available on the financial impact of the Carers Act in advance of 2019-20 Draft Budget preparations. The first Carer Census data returns will not be available until November and hence the group will consider how it may provide input to the Draft Budget discussions.
- The Financial Memorandum for the Carer's Bill sets out estimated costs increasing from £19.4m in year 1 (2018-19) to £29.2m in year 2 (2019-20) and reaching a maximum cost of £88.5m by year 5 (2022-23).

Appendix 1: Remit and approach of Waiving of Charges Short Life Working Group

Carers Act: Waiving of charges and replacement care – Task Group Agreed terms of reference

Remit

- To identify and develop a series of case studies on charging decisions to supplement the 'Waiving of charges and replacement care' chapter of the Carers (Scotland) Act statutory guidance.
- As a consequence, to identify whether there are aspects of this chapter of the guidance and/or COSLA homecare charging guidance that need to be revised.

Purpose

- To help LAs/IAs understand the requirements of the legislation and their scope for discretion.

Chairing/Servicing

- Scottish Government (Lindsey Henderson or Peter Stapleton) would chair meetings and record actions.
- Meetings would be in St Andrews House (Edinburgh), Atlantic Quay (Glasgow) or hosted by other group members.

Membership

- SG carers policy (plus input from charging and SDS policy)
- Peter McCulloch plus up to 5 LA/IA reps to reflect a range of views. Peter to discuss whether one should be from children's services
- Garrick Smyth, COSLA
- Don Williamson (Shared Care Scotland)

Timescales and duration

- Around 6 meetings, about a month apart.
- First meeting at end of May.
- Complete by the end of 2018.

Approach

- Peter McCulloch to generate an initial list of difficult scenarios in consultation with LA/IA reps and SWS networks.
- These to be considered at a first meeting to agree which to prioritise and consider how to work up into case studies.
- Noting that some examples would show that, in a single situation, different approaches could be followed depending on local policies.
- Case studies to be circulated as they are finalised with an expectation that the full set will be published towards the end of the process.
- Consideration of whether guidance needs adjusting from meeting 3 or 4.

**Scottish Government – Carers Policy
May 2018**