

Pilots Update Paper

Summary

1. This paper outlines the progress to date on the thirteen pilots which were established to test out different provisions within the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016. The pilots were undertaken in two different phases. Phase one was from April to the end of September 2017 and involved nine different integration authorities from across the country. Phase two has different timelines, from May 2017 until early in the new year, and specifically focused on Section 28 of the Carers Act, carer involvement in hospital discharge of cared-for persons. This involved four different integration authorities.

Background: Phase One

2. In phase one, a joint letter was issued in March 2017 from the Scottish Government and COSLA setting out our intention to invite bids from selected integration authorities to undertake some pilots based on tests of change in relation to different provisions in the Carers Act.
3. A subsequent letter was issued to acknowledge approval of their proposed pilots. The Scottish Government allocated one-off funding of £10,000 per pilot area. Funding was allocated to the relevant NHS Board in the first instance for onward transmission to the Integration Authority. (See Appendix 1- Table (i) of Phase one pilots).
4. Our expectations were that pilots in phase one would operate from April to the end of September 2017. We expected that the Scottish Government with each integration authority would share the learning from each pilot with other areas across Scotland. We issued a straightforward monitoring and evaluation form to assist pilots with this.
5. The pilots should offer opportunities for partnership working at a local level and integration authorities were encouraged to consider the involvement of local partners such as carer centres or carer support providers in the development of their pilots to test out the different provisions with the Carers Act.
6. All pilot areas were supported by the Scottish Government's Carers Branch and Analytical colleagues. The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) and NHS Education Scotland (NES) also supported the pilots.

Phase Two:

7. The Scottish Government commissioned a mapping exercise of current practice relating to carer involvement in hospital discharge which was undertaken by Health Improvement Scotland in 2016. Positive aspects of practice, gaps and inconsistencies were identified.
8. A process was established to invite proposals to undertake 'tests of change' to explore carer involvement in hospital discharge of cared-for persons. The main findings from the mapping exercise were presented to inform local thinking but proposals were welcomed on any 'test of change'. This resulted in four pilot areas being successful with their proposals (see Appendix 1- Table (ii) Phase two pilots).
9. The funding for phase two pilots was up to £10,000 per pilot. However, some pilots required much less funding to deliver their pilot and allocation of funding from Scottish Government was similar to Phase one pilots.
10. Phase two pilots plan to report back in the early new year and will feed into either supplementary guidance on section 28 or more general learning that will be shared with partners.

Update on Phase One progress:

11. All of the pilot areas in phase one were visited in the first couple of months between April and June by a small team that consisted of colleagues from Scottish Government Carer Policy Branch, NES, SSSC and COSLA. This helped to develop understanding of how different integration authorities planned to approach their test of change and highlight some of the challenges or opportunities that lay ahead.
12. In order to support the pilots, it was originally planned to provide draft guidance to the pilots around June on the different provisions of the Carers Act that they were testing out. Unfortunately, due to internal factors, some of the draft guidance was delayed beyond that date. However, draft guidance was issued on local carer strategies in July to all integration authorities including the pilots, and then on local eligibility criteria in August. More recently, additional draft guidance was issued to the pilots including on adult carer support plans, young carer statements, advice and information, duty to support and hospital discharge.
13. An open offer of monthly telephone conferences was taken up by the majority of the pilots and this was offered from June onwards. This gave pilots an opportunity to share their learning to date, provide exchanges to each other and offer peer support between pilot areas.

14. The next steps will include a full analysis of completed evaluation templates from each of the pilot areas. The key findings and learning from these pilots will be incorporated into a report which will be brought back to a future ISG meeting.
15. It is planned that learning from the pilots will help shape the draft statutory guidance of the Carers Act. The sharing of the learning experiences encountered in the pilots will also inform the Scottish Government and COSLA on how to best target support in the first year of implementation of the Carers Act.

Update on Phase Two progress:

16. All of the pilot areas have had initial phone conferences with Carers Branch colleagues and partners from NES and SSSC. This ensured that everyone involved in the running of the pilots understood the expectations and were aware of the support available to them.
17. Draft guidance on section 28 of the Act was sent round with health warnings to the four areas to provide direction for the running of the pilots and NES have now confirmed that an updated version of the EPiC online training resource is now available for the areas to use. The pilot areas have also been invited to provide comment on the draft guidance.
18. The pilot areas have been encouraged to move forward with the work on the tests of change and that there will be a “check-in” phone call with Carers Branch in the next few months.
19. A date for submitting evaluation and learning from the pilots will be agreed soon.
20. Given timescales, evaluation and learning will not be available in time to include in the main guidance for the Act but will either be made available in the form of supplementary guidance or shared as learning and good practice through other means.

Appendix 1: (i) Table of Phase One Pilots

Integration Authority	Pilot
South Ayrshire	Adult Carer Support Plan (ACSP) and link to Terminal Illness (End of Life /Palliative Care); Links with Anticipatory Care and Self-Directed Support
Dundee	Local Eligibility Criteria; Duty to provide support; ACSP; Short Breaks Services Statement
East Renfrewshire	Young Carer Statement
Midlothian	Adult Carer Support Plan and links to emergency planning and anticipatory care
North Lanarkshire	Adult Carer Support Plan; Information and Advice Services
South Lanarkshire	Local Carer Strategy
East Ayrshire	Local Carer Strategy; ACSP; Duty to provide support; Local eligibility criteria
North Ayrshire	Duty to provide support; Local eligibility criteria; Young Carer Statement
Aberdeenshire	Local Carer Strategy

(ii) Table of Phase Two Pilots on Carer involvement in hospital discharge

Integration Authority	Pilot focus
Aberdeen	Carer link worker and establishing effective measurement of carer outcomes
Argyll & Bute	Carer link worker and staff awareness training
Dumfries & Galloway	Carer identification and involvement in hospital settings based on the Triangle of Care model
West Dumbartonshire	Recording of carer information and staff awareness training