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: Are the assessments fully accessible at the present time? Does the carer receive a copy of their assessment? Is the copy in a format that is accessible to the carer – for example, if the carer is a Deaf BSL user, do they receive a copy of their assessment in BSL?

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:

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

> The cared-for person may not be accessing community care services/children's services but that does not mean that the person is not being cared for. The cared-for person could simply be needing care to help with a medical condition.

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

> Having two routes should make it easier for carers to access the Carer's Assessment/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

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

This will be important if either the carer or the cared-for person has to move across local authorities to make it easier for either party. It makes little sense to either carers or cared-for people to have to start the process all over again when the only thing that has changed is the person's locale. The assessment/plan can be adjusted to take into account the changes, rather than starting the process from the beginning.

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:

Information and Advice

Question 7: 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: The duty should include adopting the "Principles of Inclusive Communication" http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/09/14082209/0 so that all the information and advice relating the Carer's Support Plan is fully accessible for all carers. The Care Information Scotland website mentioned in the consultation paper is not, as yet, fully accessible, neither is the Living IT Up website. For example, there are no captions on the video clips and the contacts are for telephone numbers – deaf people cannot use a telephone and there is no SMS text numbers available as an alternative. Many older people do not use email.

Question 8: 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 9: Should we introduce a duty to support carers and young carers, linked to an eligibility framework?

☑Yes   ☐ No

> Comments:

Question 10: Alternatively, should we retain the existing discretionary power to support carers and young carers?

☐ Yes   ☐ No

> Comments:

Question 11: Should we introduce a duty to provide short breaks?

☐ Yes   ☐ No

> Comments:

Stages and Transitions

Question 12: 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:

Question 13: 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:

Carer Involvement

Question 14: 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: This involvement must be supported by appropriate professional registered language/communication support for those who need it. For example, Deaf BSL users, Deafblind carers and Deafened carers are too often left out of planning, etc because their language/communication support needs are not taken into consideration when organising meetings, consultations, etc.

Question 15: 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: Individual carers should be included, including the more "hard to reach" carers – from the Deaf Community, Deafened people, from the BME community, etc, before carers' organisations are involved at a local level.

Question 16: 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: All involvement needs to be fully accessible and this should be explicitly built in to any guidance.

Question 17: 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 carers should be involved in the planning, shaping and delivery of services for cared-for people and support for young carers. This should be fully

accessible with appropriate professional registered language/communication support provided so that young deaf carers can take part.

Planning and Delivery

Question 18: 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: It should also be recognised that carers do get the same consultation fatigue as other people, but that this should not be a reason not to ask for their input. Within the statutory provision, it should be explicitly stated that all collaboration and involvement needs to be fully inclusive in terms of language and communication and that individual's support needs will be realised.

Question 19: 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:

Identification

Question 20:   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:

Question 21: 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:

Question 22: Should the Scottish Government ask Health Boards to monitor compliance with the core contractual elements of the GP contract?

☐ Yes   ☐ No

Comments:

Carer and Cared-for Person(s) in Different Local Authority Areas

Question 23: 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: When the decision is made, the information for carers should be easy to understand and be fully accessible so that all carers know where they will get the support they need.

Question 24: What are the views of respondents on which local authority should cover the costs of support to the carer in these circumstances?

Comments:

Question 25: Should the Scottish Government with COSLA produce guidance for local authorities?

☑Yes   ☐ No

Comments: The guidance should be explicit as to the provision of appropriate professional registered language/communication support for those carers who need it as well as the provision of fully accessible and easy to understand information.