Carers (Scotland) Bill

NHS Education for Scotland

Please find below responses from NHS Education for Scotland to the five questions being considered by the Scottish Parliament Health and Sport Committee.

1. **Do you support the Bill?**

   We welcome the introduction of the Carer (Scotland) Bill. Much action and good practice to support carers has been developed or enhanced during the life of the National Carers Strategy. It is timely to secure this through legislation and strengthen action to ensure that carers are recognised and valued as equal partners and are free from disadvantage or discrimination related to their caring role.

2. **What do you feel would be the benefits of the provisions set out in the Bill?**

   - The requirement that Adult Carer Support Plans and Young Carer Statements should be based on personal outcomes is consistent with other legislation and policy directives across health and social care (e.g. Public Bodies (Joint working) (Scotland) Act and Self Directed Support). This puts carers needs on "equal footing" to the needs of the cared for person and should support correlation across a range of plans e.g. anticipatory care plans.

   - The requirement to involve carers in the services provided should go some way to ensuring that the support offered, including short breaks, is based on achieving outcomes of people at a local level rather than service or resource driven.

   - The preventative approach set out in the Bill will be beneficial to carers as will the consistency created by the Bill.

   - Removal of the regular and substantial elements for carers and removal of the criteria that the cared for person must be in receipt of social care services will make for a smoother and faster journey for carers. Time will not need to be spent assessing the regular and substantial elements, thus leaving more time to focus on carer outcomes in the ACSP and YCS.

3. **How do you feel the Bill could be amended or strengthened?**

   - The Bill refers to local authorities throughout with limited reference to health boards. Is it anticipated that the provisions and requirements would be delegated to the Integration Authorities? If not, then the requirements for the health sector could be strengthened. The provisions and requirements will have workforce development implications and it is important that this is recognised across the health and social care sector.
• Workforce Education could feature strongly in the provisions and requirements of the Bill. This should include provisions around carers in employment

• Although the Bill will establish that local authorities must set out their plans for identifying carers within the context of the local carer strategy more strength should be given to the need to consult with health boards before preparing the strategy.

• More emphasis could be placed on health boards who should be ensuring that they provide information in relation to carer identification in primary, secondary and tertiary care e.g. GP practices, hospital admission and discharge services, AHP services, dental services, community pharmacies, etc.

4. Is there anything that you would add to the Bill?

• The Bill makes reference to carer involvement in relation to carer services, assessments, co production, carer strategies etc... In order that carer involvement is meaningful and effective, the Bill could potentially be strengthened by more emphasis being placed on workforce development. A duty placed on boards and local authorities to ensure we have a carer aware workforce. The Policy Memorandum highlights that the Equal Partners in Care (EPiC) initiative is helping to ensure that health and social service workers are aware of carers and know how to work with them as equal partners. The workforce should continue to become more carer aware and thus more enabled to empower carers.

• Preventative approaches could be strengthened by including requirements for integrated structures to work closely with directors of public health, statisticians and researchers. Inputs and outcomes could be evidenced in local strategies

5. Is there anything that you would remove from the Bill?

• No.

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