

CARERS Scotland
the voice of carers



Carers' Legislation – consultation on proposals

The Scottish Government is consulting on proposals to improve outcomes for carers and young carers in Scotland. They are seeking the views of carers and organisations that work with carers to make sure that these proposals are the best they can be. This briefing aims to present the key points of the consultation and seeks your views on them. It also puts forward the National Carer Organisations' (NCO) position on the proposals.

You can read and respond to the full consultation online at <http://goo.gl/ngPA98>. The consultation runs until **April 16 2014**. Over this period we will be gathering the views of carers and other stakeholders from across Scotland and this will form the basis for our response to the consultation. You can also respond to the consultation online through our survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ScotlandCarersBill>

The consultation document (and this briefing) talks about DUTIES and POWERS that could be applied to local authorities and health boards. A DUTY is something that local authorities or health boards MUST do. A POWER is something that local authorities or health boards CAN do.

Carer's Support Plan

There are a number of proposals to change Carers' Assessments to increase take-up and encourage carers to come forward for support.

- Many carers do not like the term *Carer's Assessment*, believing that it is judgemental and assesses their ability to provide care rather than considering what help they need to support their caring role. To address this issue and encourage carers to come forward, the Scottish Government have proposed a **change of name to Carer's Support Plan**.
- Under current legislation, local authorities only have to offer the assessment to carers who care on a regular and substantial basis. There is no set definition for what is considered regular and substantial, and those carers providing low levels of support (no matter what the impact this has on them) are not eligible. This means that it can be more difficult to provide preventative support and carers are unable to access support until a crisis point is reached. To address this, the Scottish Government have proposed **removing the substantial and regular test** so that all carers will be eligible for a Carer's Support Plan.
- However, carers will require different levels of Carer's Support Plan, depending on the impact that caring has upon them. Some carers may only need a relatively 'light touch' approach with regular review, whilst other carers may require a more comprehensive approach. Carer's Support Plans will aim to be personalised and focused on achieving the outcomes for individual carers. They will consider what the carer wishes to achieve in both day to day life and in the future, e.g. what is needed to maintain and manage the caring role and have a life outside caring.

To support this, the Scottish Government proposes to

- **produce statutory guidance** which will set out the different types of Carer's Support Plan that care be taken forward with the carer.
- **produce statutory guidance** covering a wide range of issues that are appropriate for a Carer's Support Plan, e.g. the carer's willingness to care, whether the carer works or wishes to, emergency and future planning.
- **place a duty on local authorities** to offer a Carer's Support Plan; carers will also be able to request a Plan.
- **remove criteria** that the local authority must (or may) be providing community care services to the adult or child the carer is caring for.
- **remove wording** in existing law that the carer's ability to care is being assessed.

In addition, there is evidence that it can sometimes take a long time for carers to be offered a carer's assessment and/or to be reassessed. The Scottish Government have ruled out setting timescales for undertaking a Carer's Support Plan.

- The Scottish Government does however propose to **introduce a duty** for local authorities (or other bodies undertaking a Carer's Support Plan) to inform a carer of the length of time it is likely to take to receive the Plan and if it exceeds this time, to advise the carer of the reason.
- Some carers e.g. parent carers may prefer a family-based assessment so that the needs of the whole family unit can be assessed and addressed
- The Scottish Government proposes that **a Carer's Support Plan must be offered** so that the carer's needs are identified in their own right and the carer can identify and achieve their own personal outcomes. However the Carer's Support Plan can be considered at the same time as a community care assessment or a Child's Plan is the carer and the cared-for person agreed.

How would this work?

All carers would be offered a Carer's Support Plan. The scope of this Plan would be based on the individual carer's needs and would be focused on achieving the outcomes they wanted in their caring role and to have a life outside caring. Statutory guidance will guide the different depths of Carer's Support Plans and what issues should be considered. Local authorities would have a duty to offer carers a Carer's Support Plan and to tell individual carers how long it would be until they receive their Plan.

NCO position on the proposal

The National Carer Organisations **support the proposal to change the name of Carers' Assessments to Carer's Support Plans**. We believe that this more accurately reflects their purpose, which should be of what support can be provided to help the carer manage their caring role and have a life outside caring.

We also support proposals to **remove the regular and substantial test** and extend the Carer's Support Plan to all carers. We believe that this will enable carers to access information and support at an earlier stage, preventing crisis and greater cost at a later stage. However, it is vital to ensure that to correspond to intended increase in take-up, local authorities and local carer and other community support services to whom carers are signposted are sufficiently resourced to respond. We believe that such resources would be a sound investment, as early identification and support of carers will prevent crisis and greater cost at a later stage.

We agree that statutory guidance should underpin the depth of Carer's Support Plans but that the scope should be informed, in all cases, by the needs and wishes of the carer. Furthermore, we agree that statutory guidance should be in place to describe what should be included in discussions for the Carer's Support Plan, not least a carer's right to choose the level of care (if any) they are willing to provide and their right to a life outside caring. However, we have

some concerns that the proposal not to legislate for a minimum set of issues to be discussed may result in inconsistency.

Moreover, whilst we welcome an improved approach to legislate for local authorities to have a process for informing carers of the time it will take until they receive a Carer's Support Plan, we are unsure that this will solve the current situation where carers can wait many months (indeed years) for their Carer's Assessment. Whilst we recognise that there are challenges in setting maximum waiting times, not least that it may become a standard waiting time, we believe that there should be some consideration of a reasonable timescale (e.g. not exceeding 12 weeks) to ensure that carers do not reach crisis point before they receive support.

We support the remaining proposals to remove those legislative provisions that place barriers to carers accessing support including the assessment of 'ability to care' and the need for the cared-for person to be receiving community care or children's services.

Finally, we welcome the duty that will be placed on local authorities to inform carers about the Carer's Support Plan. However, this duty should be extended to acute NHS services and to new integrated primary health and social care services.

Your views

Do you agree with changing the name of Carer's Assessment to Carer's Support Plan?

Do you think all carers should be eligible for a Carer's Support Plan?

Can you see any drawbacks to widening eligibility?

Do you agree with the proposal to have different levels/depths of Carer's Support Plans? If not, why not?

Do you think statutory guidance on content of Carer's Support Plans is sufficient?

If not, do you believe that the Government should legislate to provide a minimum standard for issues to be considered in the Carer's Support Plan?

Do you agree in removing the need for the cared for person to be receiving community care or children's services?

Do you agree with removing the assessment of the carer's ability to provide care?

Carer and cared-for person living in different local authority areas

When a carer lives in a different local authority area than the person they provide care for, a number of issues may arise which require clarification. Under existing legislation, a local authority is not obliged to carry out a carer's assessment if the person that is being cared for lives in another local authority area. A local authority is only obliged to carry out an assessment if it appears to them that the cared for person is someone whom they must or may provide community care services to. If the carer requests an assessment from local authority 'A' and the person they care for lives in local authority 'B', local authority 'A' has no obligation to undertake an assessment because it has no power or duty to provide services to the cared for in local authority 'B.'

Caring at a distance also raises the question about which local authority should provide support to the carer. This is not a significant issue at the moment as most local authorities do not provide direct support to carers but may become more of an issue in the future, subject to legislative change, i.e. the proposed duties on local authority to carry out carer support plans and provide support to carers. Local authorities must also consider who meets the cost of undertaking the carer's assessment and providing support.

Current practice across local authorities in Scotland differs on both of these issues.

How would this work?

The Scottish Government have not taken a decision on this, acknowledging this is new territory for them. However, it recognises that it might be more practical for the local authority in which the carer lives to undertake the Carer's

Assessment and to collaborate with the local authority in which the cared for person lives. It is also suggested that the local authority in which the cared for person lives might reimburse the local authority in which the carer lives for any support provided to the carer.

Considerations

It is likely that 'caring at a distance' will increase due to changing family structures and migration patterns. In addition to providing care, families may have to contend with long journeys and the additional emotional strain on not being 'on hand' should an emergency arise.

NCO position on proposed changes

The NCO agree that **the local authority in which the carer lives should undertake the Carer's Assessment** and seek to recoup costs from the local authority in which the cared for person lives. It is not for the NCO to set out how the costs should be recovered but mechanisms are already in place for local authorities to recoup costs from each other in relation to the provision of support for the cared for person.

In some situations, the carer may move from the local authority they live in to the local authority of the cared for person. In these circumstances and where the carer's original local authority has carried out an assessment, we **believe it would be beneficial for the Carer's Assessment to remain in place for a period of 6 months** whilst they are awaiting a new assessment. This will provide continuity of support to the carer to ensure they are not left unsupported.

Your Views

If you live in a different local authority to the person you provide care for, which local authority should carry out your Carer's Assessment?

Information and advice provided to carers

The Government is considering placing duties on local authorities in relation to information and advice provided to carers.

How would this work?

Local authorities would establish and maintain a service for providing people with information and advice on the Carer Support Plan, support to carers and the Carers' Rights Charter. Information about support to carers provided by the third sector would be available. This would include carers' centres and dedicated services, as well as other organisations that provide some support to carers, and would be accompanied by statutory guidance on the level and type of information and advice that should be available.

There is also a proposal to repeal the power to request Carer Information Strategies; the need for a Strategy will become redundant with integration of health and social care. The Scottish Government will still be able to provide funding towards the costs of information and advice and support provided by carer information strategies to maintain support.

Considerations

The range of information and advice available would have to be broad enough to cover a whole range of caring situations and all aspects of carer support. Carers' centres and carer support services can already provide information and advice at this level.

It is important that existing local organisations that support carers and provide information are not overlooked. Local authorities will have to consider whether resourcing currently existing information and support services will be more appropriate than establishing something new. In many situations, it will be better to support an existing service that has a well-known presence in an area, that carers already know and trust and that is skilled at identifying hidden carers and those who are new to caring.

Health boards currently have to prepare a Carer Information Strategy, which informs carers about carers' assessments. Many health boards provide carers' centres and other carers' organisations with funding to provide information to carers. It is proposed that Health Boards would no longer have to prepare Carer Information Strategies.

The Government's view is that the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Bill, which legislates for integration of health and social care, will mean that Health Boards remain focused on the needs of carers. Support provided by Carer Information Strategies will be maintained, as the benefits of Health Board funding are recognised by the Government.

NCO position on the proposed changes

The NCO believes **that local authorities should ensure that information and advice about the Carer Support Plan and for support to carers and young carers is provided.** However, a new service would not need to be established in a local authority area if existing services are already in place. As most areas in Scotland have a carers' centre or carers' service, these services should be supported to continue their work as they have already established a local presence. There should also be a definitive list of universal, free services that are available to all carers and that form the core services provided by carers' centres and services. This would be the minimum standard for local authority-operated or funded services to provide.

Support for carers from Health Boards must be maintained. If Carer Information Strategies are to be scrapped, there must be mechanisms in place to ensure Health Boards continue to fund carer support in their region. Carer Information Strategies are a good way of ring-fencing money to support carers and there is a risk that Health Boards may not protect money for carer information and advice without them. Carers and carers' organisations must be involved in local planning if Carer Information Strategies are scrapped – this is covered at a strategic level by integration strategic planning groups, but may not include carers and carers' organisations in enough depth.

Your views

Should there be a duty for local authorities to establish or maintain a service for providing carers with information and advice?

Should Carer Information Strategies be scrapped, provided that Health Boards would still continue to provide funding for carer support?

Duty to support carers

The Scottish Government is considering introducing the following duties on local authorities in relation to carer support:

- A duty to support carers and young carers
- A duty to promote and provide short breaks

How would this work?

This means that local authorities must support carers and/or provide them with a short break if they are assessed as needing this support and they qualify for it.

In order to qualify for this support they will need to meet the eligibility criteria, which is likely to be based on the intensity of the persons caring role, as well as other risk factors such as age and health.

Alongside a duty to provide short breaks, it is also proposed that local authorities publish and keep under review a Short Breaks Statement. This would be aimed at carers setting out the range of short break services being provided and how these meet identified needs, and any eligibility criteria applying.

Considerations

This would allow for a more equal system as carers would know what they were entitled to and would have the right to support, if they meet eligibility criteria. However, if the eligibility criteria are set too high, it could make it more difficult for carers to access support. It would also be important to make sure that carers can still get services to protect their health and wellbeing and prevent them from reaching crisis point. This is a complex area that we need to get right for carers. We have developed a positions paper which goes into more detail about the pros and cons of introducing a right to support and a paper on introducing a duty to provide and promote [short breaks](#).

NCO position on the proposed changes

We support the introduction of these duties to support carers and provide and promote short breaks. We think that the legislation should go further and the duties should incorporate the following:

- **A national eligibility framework should be co-produced with carers.** We believe that if each area develops its own eligibility framework this will lead to too much variation across Scotland.
- The eligibility framework should take into account the need to provide **preventative support** to carers to enable them to access the resources they need before they reach crisis point
- There should be an agreed timescale between a carer meeting the criteria for support and that support being put in place. **We recommend that this should not exceed 12 weeks.**
- When a carer moves from one local authority to another, there should **be a duty on the new local authority to continue to provide the service they were previously eligible for.**

A duty to support young carers

Under the forthcoming Children and Young People (Scotland) Act there is a duty to support young people, including young carers. However, since the needs of young carers are often different to those of their peers we believe that carers' legislation should include guidance outlining the services and support that local authorities should have in place to fulfil their duty to support young carers.

Your Views

Should the government introduce a DUTY to support carers and a DUTY to promote and provide short breaks?
What are your views on the introduction of eligibility criteria?
What are your views on local authorities having to produce a short breaks statement?

Stages and transitions

The Scottish Government is proposing to make sure that young carers who will become adult carers after they turn 18 are entitled to early planning for support as an adult carer, primarily through early preparation of a Carer's Support Plan; and that stages of caring are supported through updating the Carer's Support Plan as and when required.

How would this work?

- Statutory guidance would be issued for the Carer's Support Plan that would include managing stages of caring. Guidance for young carers on managing stages of caring would be issued under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act.
- Statutory guidance would also be issued that would ensure young carers had a Carer's Support Plan if they were undergoing transition from children's services to adult services. Young carers will have a right to a Carer's Support Plan even if they are not receiving children's services.

Considerations

- Carers experience different challenges at different stages in their caring role and recognising these challenges is good for carer support. However, sometimes a caring situation can change so quickly that relying on a carer support plan to manage these changes and provide the right support will not always be quick enough.
- Young carers who become adult carers can face significant challenges. Adult carer support services are not always suitable for young people, who may be put off if other carers they meet through peer support groups etc. are older or do not have similar caring situations. Young adult carer services that work with carers aged 18-25 are not available in all areas of Scotland.

NCO position on the proposal

We believe that **guidance should be issued on the Carer's Support Plan that includes guidance on managing stages of caring**. We also believe that young carers who are likely to become adult carers should have a Carer's Support Plan, and that this should be **carried out well in advance of the young person reaching the age of 18** so that the transition is as smooth as possible.

Your views

Should the Government issue guidance on managing stages of caring so that Carer Support Plans always take into account the effect that different stages of caring may have on carers?

Should young carers who are likely to become adult carers have a Carers Support Plan agreed before they reach 18, so that support can be put in place as soon as they become an adult carer? When should early planning for transition begin?

Carer Involvement

The consultation recognises that carers should be involved in the planning, shaping and delivery of services. The Scottish Government have made proposals – some which are already included in legislation, and others which will require additional legislation.

The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Bill is currently going through the Scottish Parliament and is legislating for the integration for adult health and social care services.

- The Scottish Government will require that integration joint boards and joint integration monitoring committees (which will be developed as part of legislation) have representation from carers and carers' organisations. In addition, guidance on strategic commissioning of services will also be clear that this requirement also extends to carer involvement in the design and delivery of future integrated services.

- The Scottish Government would also like to take views on the involvement of young carers and the best means of doing this.

However, this does not include all services. For example, as integration plans are aimed in the first instance at adult health and social care services, services for disabled children are not included.

- The Scottish Government has proposed that **they will make a provision for carer involvement in the planning, shaping and delivery of services for people they care for** and support for carers that are outwith the scope of integration.
- In addition, they have proposed to make a provision **for involvement by carers' organisations involvement in the planning, shaping and delivery of services** and support for carers that are outwith the scope of integration.
- The Scottish Government would also like to take views on the involvement of young carers and the best means of doing this.

Carers as Equal Partners

Carers should have the right to play an equal and active role in care planning and decisions, with the consent of the individual. The principles of the Social Care (Self Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013 also reinforce the full involvement of carers in the assessment of needs for support and the provision of support for themselves. Other existing legislation also requires that local authorities to take account of the views of carers in the assessment of adults and children before reaching decisions on what services to provide. This is to ensure that a care package meets the wishes and needs of both the cared for person and the carer, as far as is possible.

To further support the effective involvement of carers, the Scottish Government proposes that legislation includes a principle about carer involvement in care planning for the person they care for (subject to their consent) and support for themselves. This would also include a similar principle for young carers.

How would this work?

Integrated planning and commissioning would be required to involve carers and carer organisations in planning and shaping services as would non-integrated services. These bodies would have to have carer involvement from the outset.

Local authorities and integrated services would be required to involve carers and take account of their views in the assessment of the person who is being cared for.

NCO position on the proposal

The National Carer Organisations support the proposal to require integrated and non-integrated bodies to include carers in the planning, shaping and delivery of services. We believe it is important that carers and people who use services are involved in determining the types of support and services that should be available in their community.

We also believe that young carers should have an opportunity to become involved in shaping services in their community. This can be done using methods which are age appropriate, in partnership with young carer support projects, such as young carer forums and the Scottish Young Carers Festival.

We also support proposals to enhance legislation on the involvement of carers and young carers in care planning for the person they care for and in shaping the support they need to help them manage their caring role and have a life outside caring. We believe that the knowledge and experience of carers should be recognised and valued in care

planning and that they (and the person they care for) are the experts in deciding what services and support is needed.

Your views

Should carers be involved in planning, shaping and delivery of services for the people they care for?

Should carers' organisations be involved in the planning and delivery of services and support for carers?

Should the Government legislate to include a principle of carer involvement in care planning of the person they care for (with their consent)?

Planning and Delivery

Local carers' strategies are currently developed by some local authorities to set out what their plans are to support carers and develop services in their local area. These local strategies do take the national carers' strategy into account, but there is a lot of variance in local priorities and this can lead to services in some areas being very different to those available in other areas. The Scottish Government is proposing to ensure local authorities develop local carers' strategies that address issues of need and demand for support.

How would this work?

- The Scottish Government recognises that planning for development of carers and young carers' services needs to be more consistent and more strategic. It proposes that each local authority must prepare a local carers' strategy every three years. It must also be kept under review.
- Local organisations and carers must be involved in the development of the strategy, which must be a collaborative effort and include a wide range of relevant services and agencies that support carers.
- Young carers' strategies will not be compulsory, as there will be provision in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill to do this. However local authorities will be able to prepare a young carers' strategy if they wish.
- Local authorities must also make sure that there are sufficient support services in their area for carers and young carers. Guidance on joint strategic commissioning will include guidance on developing the market for services in a local area.

Consideration

Local carers' strategies are useful in ensuring that all local agencies and services that support carers are working together to get the best outcomes for carers. It also means that particular local priorities can be focused on if necessary. The National Carers' Strategy is due to end in 2015 and many local carers' strategies will take their overall lead from a national strategy.

If it is not compulsory to produce a young carers' strategy, this may result in the needs of young carers being overlooked. A Children's Services Plan may not be inclusive of all young carers in a particular area.

NCO position on the proposal

The NCO believes that **there should be statutory provision for local authorities and health boards to involve and collaborate with carers and carers' organisations in the development of a local carer's strategy.** These should be connected to the national carers' strategy. We believe that young carers' strategies should also be developed. This could be a distinct part of the carers' strategy or a separate document, but the needs of young carers should be considered alongside adult carers in a local area. Not all young carers will be accessing children's services and therefore may not be covered by a Children's Services Plan.

We believe that local authorities should ensure that there are sufficient services in their area to meet carers' needs. There should **be a definitive list of universal, free services that are available to all carers** and that form the core services provided by carers' centres and services. This would be the minimum standard for services to provide for carers. Existing carers' services should be supported and resourced.

Your views

Should local authorities have to produce a local carers' strategy? Should young carers be included in this strategy? Should local authorities ensure that there are sufficient services in their local area to meet the needs of carers?

Carer Identification

The Scottish Government recognises that identification of carers remains a challenge despite a wide range of initiatives designed to improve this. Particular importance is placed on the role of primary healthcare practitioners (i.e. GPs) and how they can identify and refer carers within the practice for assessment. The mechanism for this is the General Medical Services (GMS) Contract which is the contract between general practices and NHS Health Scotland for delivering primary care services. The 2013/14 GMS Contract Agreement in Scotland states:

"The practice has a protocol for the identification of carers and a mechanism for the referral of carers for social services assessment".

This requirement was transferred into the core element of the GP Contract so is it a contractual requirement. However, the contract does not specifically mention a carers' register. GP practices currently apply a code to an individual's medical record within the practice if they are identified as a carer. Collectively, this information can be used as the basis of a carers' register.

How would this work?

To improve carer identification at practice level, the Scottish Government have suggested:

- there should be no legislative requirement for GP practices and local authorities to maintain a Carers' Register **but** that good practice on the use of carers' registers should be proactively shared with Health Boards.
- Health Boards should monitor compliance with the core contractual requirement to identify and refer carers for an assessment and to report on the outcomes to the Scottish Government.

Considerations

GPs and allied health professionals are perhaps the best placed people to identify carers at any stage in the caring journey as all of us will use GP services throughout our lives. However, identification of carers through GP practices remains inconsistent across Scotland and there is limited evidence to suggest that GPs actively seek to identify carers they come into contact with. Whilst there are pockets of good practice within individual GP practices, the NCO believe that more stringent measures should be taken to ensure that all practices comply fully with the contractual arrangements, particularly as they receive funding for this through the GP contract.

NCO position on the proposed changes

The NCO believes that there should be a legislative requirement for GP practices to develop a register of carers within their practice. The coding mechanism is already in place to enable a register to be created. However, we think that there is limited value in creating a register if it is simply data collection. We believe that in addition to the identification of carers, GPs should be required to proactively refer carers for assessment and that this should be recorded on the individual patient record. We also advocate that the carers' register should trigger a review of the individual carer every six months to determine if the caring situation has changed and whether additional support is required in terms of the carers own health and wellbeing.

We see less value in placing the same requirement on local authorities as many carers may never come into contact with social work services. Where carers are in touch with their local social work offices, their details will be available on internal client recording systems either in their own right via a carer's assessment or on the community care assessment of the person they are providing care for. The forthcoming integration of health and social care would provide an opportunity to develop integrated ICT systems to enable the sharing of information across GP practices and local authority social work departments.

The NCO agrees that GPs should be required to report annually to their respective Health Boards on compliance with the GP contract. We also agree that Health Boards should, in turn, be required to report on compliance to the Scottish Government. Reporting should include: the number of carers identified within the practice, how many carers have been referred for an assessment, and how many 6 monthly reviews have been undertaken. To support this and provide a focus for carer identification and support, we believe the appointment of a carers lead within individual practices would be beneficial.

Your views

Should the Scottish Government introduce a duty on GP practices and local authorities to develop/maintain a carers' register to support the identification of carers?

Should the Scottish Government ensure that good practice on the use of carers' registers is promoted amongst Health Boards?

Should the Scottish Government place a Duty on Health Boards to monitor compliance with the GP contract?

Hospital discharge planning

A recurring theme regarding carers and the people they care for is the lack of information and support carers get when the person they look after is discharged from hospital. To ensure a safe discharge and prevent readmission to hospital, it is vital that the carer is involved at all stages of discharge planning, which should begin as soon as the patient is admitted to hospital. Hospital and social care staff should work together to manage all parts of the discharge process. This is to ensure that the patient is suitably cared for after they have left hospital and the carer is not at risk of being unable to cope. The Carers' Strategy notes early and effective discharge planning as having better outcomes for the carer and for the person they look after¹, and health boards do have protocols for carer involvement in discharge planning², but we know from research and anecdotal evidence that many people experience poor discharge planning and lack of communication, medication, equipment or care packages that ultimately end in readmission to hospital or breakdown of the caring relationship.

The NCO believe that the forthcoming carers' legislation is an ideal opportunity to embed discharge planning into statute, ensuring that health boards and local authorities plan to coordinate discharge from hospital in a way that is inclusive of carers and the role they play in looking after people following a stay in hospital. We believe that a duty should be introduced on health boards to inform carers of and involve carers in hospital discharge planning.

We are keen to seek the views of carers and carers' organisations on this issue in order to gather evidence about the difference this will make for carers.

Your views

Should the Scottish Government introduce a duty on health boards to involve carers in hospital discharge planning?

¹ *Caring Together*, 2.31

² Scottish Executive Health Department Directorate of Service Policy and Planning, Circular CCD 9/2003

Responding to the consultation

You can read and respond to the full consultation online at <http://goo.gl/ngPA98>. Respondent forms are available to download and print off. The consultation runs until **April 16 2014** and all responses must be submitted by then in order for the Scottish Government to consider them.

There will be consultation events held throughout March and early April in order to support you to have your views heard on the proposals. Events are currently planned for Glasgow, Renfrewshire, East Ayrshire, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dundee and Inverness. To find out more about events near you, contact:

Claire Cairns, Coalition of Carers in Scotland coalition@carersnet.org

Fiona Collie, Carers Scotland fiona.collie@carerscotland.org

Suzanne Munday, MECOPP suzanne@mecopp.org.uk

Heather Noller, Carers Trust Scotland hnoller@carers.org

You can also respond to the consultation online through our survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ScotlandCarersBill>

The National Carer Organisations - February 2014

The National Carer Organisations are Carers Scotland, the Coalition of Carers in Scotland, Minority Ethnic Carers of Older People Project (MECOPP), Crossroads Caring Scotland, Shared Care Scotland, the Scottish Young Carers Services Alliance and Carers Trust Scotland.