

CPG on Carers

28 June 2017, 1pm, Committee Room 3

MSPs: Graeme Dey, Claudia Beamish, Clare Adamson

Individuals and organisations:

Aileen Barclay, Central Carers
Alexis Hay, Standard Life
Arvind Salwan, Care Inspectorate
Carolynne Hunter
Cath Purdie, PASDA
Celia Sweeney
Christopher Doyle, ALLIANCE Scotland
Claire Cairns, Coalition of Carers in Scotland
David Beyt, Alzheimer Scotland/NDCAN
Dinah Aitken, Salvesen Mindroom Centre
Elizabeth Morrison, Life Changes Trust
Jean Campbell, Support in Mind Scotland (Perth)
Kelly Munro, Enable
Layla Theiner, Disability Agenda Scotland
Lesley Jeffrey, Dumfries and Galloway Carers Centre
Lindsey Currie
Michael Sinclair, Salvesen Mindroom Centre
Tanith Muller, Parkinsons UK
William Griffiths, ALLIANCE Scotland
Donna Nicholson, Learning Disability Alliance Scotland

Apologies: Donald Cameron MSP, Annie Wells MSP, Clare Haughey MSP, Monica Lennon MSP, Tom Wightman, Angela Lombardi, Lynn Williams, Barry Gale, Fiona Collie (Carers Scotland), Harry Robertson (Enable Scotland/North Lanarkshire Carers Together), Geoff Kitchener (Centrica Carers Network), Kate Hogarth (Shared Care Scotland), Anna Gaughan (tide), Ben Hall (Shared Lives Plus), Robert McGeachy (Camphill Scotland), Suzanne Munday (MECOPP), Kathleen Taylor (Mental Welfare Commission), Cath Logan (Big Lottery Fund)

Claudia Beamish chaired the meeting and apologised for the rescheduling from 25 May.

AGM business

The chair was taken by Clare Adamson for the election of office bearers. There were no other expressions of interest in office bearer positions so Claudia Beamish and Graeme Dey were re-elected as co-conveners. Carers Trust Scotland was re-elected as the secretariat, supported by the other National Carer Organisations.

An annual subscription for group members representing organisations was discussed and considered unnecessary at this stage. The need for a subscription will be revisited at the next AGM.

The membership list for the group was circulated and updated. Since the re-constitution meeting on 29 June 2016, several new organisational members and one new MSP member (Monica Lennon) have joined.

Social Security (Scotland) Bill

There was a discussion on the Social Security (Scotland) Bill, which had been introduced to the Scottish parliament in the previous week. Concerns were raised around the long timescales for transferring responsibility to the Scottish Government, as the current problems with the movement of DLA to PIP (for adults) will continue to happen until transfer takes place. However, the practicalities of transferring a large operational system to a different agency will take time, and it is important for this process to be done correctly.

It was noted that the Bill is not very clear in some areas, and unless the identified issues are highlighted in secondary legislation, these areas may be overlooked. Group members specifically mentioned the need to prevent profit-making organisations from carrying out assessments (as stated by the Cabinet Secretary when announcing some of the Bill's provisions), ensuring that the agency is fully accountable, and consideration of the needs of carers who are looking after more than one person.

There will be consultation exercises taking place over the summer whilst the Parliament is in recess. The National Carer Organisations will be hosting consultation events specifically for carers to focus on the provisions most important to them, and these will be publicised widely. The Experience Panels (<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/fairerscotland/Social-Security/Experience-Panels>) were noted, and several CPG members had signed up to participate in these panels.

Action point: Jeane Freeman MSP, Minister for Social Security, should be invited to attend the group again when the Social Security Bill is being scrutinised. The secretariat will write to the Minister and arrange this.

Carers Act

Claire Cairns gave an update on the Carers Act and the secondary legislation attached to this. The consultation on regulations and guidance to support the Act has not begun yet but is expected in late August (regulations) and later in the autumn (statutory guidance) before the Act's implementation in April 2018. Several local authority areas are participating in pilot projects that focus on the most substantial changes to practice (see Appendix for details) and local authorities have also received a 'readiness toolkit' to record and manage the task they are undertaking towards preparing for the Act's implementation.

Questions were asked about funding issues, particularly around the financial impact of identifying and supporting greater numbers of carers. Local authorities have been vocal about this issue but available resources are subject to the next spending review. Development of new local carers' strategies has been particularly good, with several local authorities ensuring there is good consultation with and involvement of carers and carer services. The upcoming Coalition of Carers meeting on 30 August will

feature presentations from Dundee and South Ayrshire about the pilots they are taking forward. Lesley Jeffrey gave brief information about Dumfries and Galloway Carers Centre's implementation of the Adult Carer Support Plan and Young Carers Statement last year, with positive results including a good integration of self-directed support budgets for carers. There was some further discussion about the duties that will be implemented, including the requirement to offer an Adult Carer Support Plan, as carers may still be unaware of these processes.

Graeme Dey asked why there were no hospital discharge pilots taking place, given the amount of discussion about the need for a change to discharge processes during the legislative stages of the Bill. It was suggested that Gordon Dodds, a seconded member of the Carers Policy Branch, could be contacted to seek further information about this.

AOCB

A members' business debate is taking place on 28 June 2017 at 5pm, titled 'A Charter of Rights for people with dementia and their carers'. This accompanies the publication of a new document, Rights and the Carer Voice.

Lorraine Allan discussed Bella Freak, a production taking place at the Edinburgh Fringe – further details are available here <https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/bella-freak-unwritten>

Layla Theiner from DAS shared information about round-table question time sessions that will take place in Glasgow and Edinburgh in September. Further information will follow.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the CPG will be on 9 November at 1pm in Committee Room 3. Dates for 2018 will be circulated soon.

Topics to be discussed at future meetings include an update on the Carers Act from the Minister for Public Health, a young carer specific focus, carers and employment/studying, and brain injury/mental health.

Appendix 1: Carers Act pilot areas

For more information, contact the carers' lead in the integrated authority.

PILOT AREA no.	Integration Authority	Pilot focus
1	South Ayrshire	ACSP and link to EOL/Palliative Care; Link to Anticipatory Care and SDS
2	Dundee	Eligibility Criteria; ACSP; Duty to provide support, Short Breaks Service Statement
3	East Renfrewshire	Young carer statement
4	Midlothian	Adult Carer Support Plan and links to emergency planning and anticipatory care
5	North Lanarkshire	ACSP; Information and Advice
6	South Lanarkshire	Local carer strategy
7	East Ayrshire	Local carer strategy; ACSP; Duty to provide support and duty to set local eligibility criteria
8	North Ayrshire	Duty to provide support and duty to set local eligibility criteria; plus YCS
9	Aberdeenshire	Local Carer Strategy