

Scottish Government consultation on the National Care Service

Briefing paper for young carers

We have tried to make this paper easy to understand. But if any of this confuses you at all, please get in touch with us or your local young carers service for more support.

Overview

Scottish Government asked for an Independent Review of Adult Social Care to look at how they could make adult social care better in Scotland. [The independent review of adult social care](#) makes recommendations for social care support in Scotland that could change the lives of people with care needs and all unpaid carers, including young carers.

At the moment local authorities are responsible for social care. One of the recommendations from the Independent Review is to make the Scottish Government responsible for social care and for them to set up a National Care Service to help them with this.

Many people, including unpaid carers were involved with the Independent Review by sharing their experiences and views about the current social care system, what its strengths are and what needs to be changed to improve it.

Scottish Government have now put out a consultation on the National Care Service. This puts forward their ideas for implementing the Independent Review and on making a community health and social care service that supports people of all ages. The Scottish Government wants to get views of people on these ideas. This is called a Consultation.

Scottish Government wants to hear views from as many people as possible - including young carers - as many of these ideas could impact on their lives.

This paper provides a summary of Scottish Government's ideas which we think are most relevant to young carers and explains how you can take part in the consultation to have your views heard.

What does the Scottish Government consultation set out to do?

The consultation is asking for people's views on the Scottish Government's ideas to improve the way social care is delivered in Scotland. Social care is what we call support for disabled people, those with mental health conditions, older people, people with or recovering from addictions, homeless people, children and families who need support, or children who are unable to live with their own families. It also includes support for unpaid carers and young carers.

The consultation focusses on the areas that will need new laws to be put in place. The Scottish Government's plan is to use the findings from this consultation to help shape a Bill (new law) to be introduced to the Scottish Parliament in the Summer of 2022. It is likely to take around one year for Scottish Parliament to discuss, make changes and decide whether to pass the Bill.

What does the consultation cover?

We think there are parts of the consultation paper that are most important to young carers. Below is a summary of these key areas.

Improving care for people

It is hoped that by making health and social care support better, the lives of people with care needs, and unpaid carers and young carers will improve. Services can be really important in supporting the health and wellbeing of people.

The consultation is looking for your views on an improvement programme. The National Care Service would deliver this programme. It is hoped that this would make health and social care better for everyone in Scotland.

“Getting it Right for Everyone” is what Scottish Government wants. They know that access to social care support can be difficult and complicated, and that many people can only access support if their needs are very serious. Scottish Government say that they want to change care and support services to be more person-focussed and give people the support they need to live a full life wherever they live in Scotland.

A key part of the consultation for young carers is around a Right to breaks from caring. It is important that unpaid carers of all ages are able to take a break. Scottish Government want to make it an unpaid carer's Right to have a break. In the consultation, Scottish Government sets out different options for creating a Right to have a break. The options are:

1. Should all unpaid carers have the same support to take a break
2. Should support be personalised to a person's needs
3. Should it be a mix of both.

It is important that the views of young carers on a Right to have a break from caring are heard.

National Care Service

This part of the consultation sets out Scottish Government's ideas for creating a National Care Service. Currently in Scotland, local councils have responsibility for providing social care support. The Scottish Government have responsibility for health care.

Social care services can be different depending on where you live in Scotland. The consultation asks for views on creating a National Care Service, which would mean that Scottish Government

would become responsible for social care, as it is for health care. The National Care Service will have a responsibility for planning services and to set the standards for social care all across Scotland.

Community Health and Social Care Boards would be created to be lead on delivery of social care at a local level as part of the National Care Service. They will work with the NHS, local councils, voluntary organisations, and other key organisations to plan and deliver services.

The Scottish Government also wants to include Children's Services in the new National Care Service. Children's services are services that benefit children. For example, services for children with complicated health conditions and those with additional support needs. Children's social work and social care services is linked to adult services. Scottish Government believe it is important to have a whole family view. The consultation also asks for views on children's social work and social care services to be in the National Care Service.

Most people first contact the NHS through GPs, dentists, pharmacists and district nurses. Scottish Government believe that better social care could help a person to manage their health condition at home and help avoid them needing hospital care. Scottish Government has planned that the National Care Service could take responsibility for a range of community health services. It is also planned that mental health services should be in the National Care Service to make sure they are the same across all of Scotland.

Scottish Government are also looking for views on making changes to Alcohol and Drugs Partnerships to make them more effective and whether they should become part of the National Care Service.

There is a lot in this part of the consultation. But this is also a very important part of the consultation for young carers to share their views, as the creation of a National Care Service will impact them directly, the people they care for and their wider family and communities.

Valuing people who work in social care

Scotland's health and social care paid workforce provide important support to people across Scotland every day. Scottish Government believe that there needs to be greater understanding of the role that they play and care they bring every day to the job they do. The Independent Review found that many people who work in social care are not well paid and don't have good employment terms and conditions. Many social care workers feel undervalued and underpaid. They can be dealing with high workloads and stress. It can also be difficult to recruit and keep social care paid staff because of this.

The Independent Review said making better working conditions for social care staff across Scotland should be a priority for a National Care Service. The Scottish Government wants a Fair Work Accreditation Scheme to be created. This would mean that the National Care Service

would lead in developing workforce quality standards. This could include rates of pay, employment contracts and training. Scottish Government also plans for the National Care Service to develop and manage standards. Contracts will only be provided to services that support and meet these standards.

Personal assistants are individuals who are recruited by people who get direct payments and/or Independent Living Fund (ILF) funds. They play a key role in social care support. Scottish Government are not sure how many personal assistants there are in Scotland. It is thought that there is around 6,000. Personal assistants are not managed by the Care Inspectorate. This can make it hard to speak to them and support them. There is no law for personal assistants to get training or support to do their role. Employing personal assistants can be a lot of work. Scottish Government is also asking for views in the consultation about registering all personal assistants in Scotland, and they are thinking more about how the National Care Service could support personal assistants. Scottish Government are also thinking about how to make it easier for people to use their direct payments.

How will this be paid for?

The consultation paper does not set out how social care will be funded in the future. However Scottish Government has said they will increase funding in social care by 25%, which is approximately £800million.

How can you get involved with the consultation?

You don't need to read the full consultation paper, or answer all the questions, unless you want to. You can skip to the areas you are interested in, and just answer the questions in those parts.

The consultation closes on 2nd November 2021, so you have until then to share your views on the ideas.

You can fill out the easy read version of the consultation by answering the questions to the [paper here](#), and sending your answers by email or by post (details below). Please also include the Respondent Information Form, which can be found also at the link above. Scottish Government need this so that they know what to do with your response when they receive it. You can choose whether or not you want Scottish Government to publish your name alongside your response. If you have given permission for your answers to be made public, and after Scottish Government have checked that they contain nothing offensive, your answers will be made available to the public [here](#).

You can e-mail your response to: NCsconsultation@gov.scot

Or you can post your response to: National Care Service Team,
Scottish Government,
Area GE-15, St Andrew's House,
Regent Road,

Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

After the closing date, Scottish Government will look at all responses and consider them. Consultation is a key part of the policymaking process. It gives Scottish Government the chance to think about your views in an area where they think changes should be made. Scottish Government publishes a report after every consultation.

You may also want to respond to the full consultation online. However, this version is not easy read. It is also 137 pages long and includes 95 questions. You can read it and [respond to the full consultation here](#). However, we understand that most young carers won't have the time to do this and not all of the questions may be relevant to you. You may prefer to respond to the easy read version above.

The National Carer Organisation will also be asking for your views on our social media pages before the consultation closes. If you are interested in taking part in our online polls, you can follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

About the National Carer Organisations

The National Carer Organisations are Carers Scotland, Carers Trust Scotland, the Coalition of Carers in Scotland, MECOPP, Shared Care Scotland, and the Scottish Young Carers Services Alliance.

Together we have a shared vision that all Scotland's unpaid carers (including young carers) will feel valued, included and supported as equal partners in providing care. The National Carer Organisations aim to achieve this through the representation of unpaid carers of all ages and giving them a voice at a national level.

We believe we can deliver more for unpaid carers by working together to share our knowledge and experience, and by focusing our efforts on achieving improvements in areas of policy and practice that are of greatest concern to unpaid carers of all ages.

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