

## SIAA – Social Security Committee

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### Carers (Scotland) Act 2016: Consultation on a Carers' Charter

October 2017

1. **Is the information presented in Chapter 1 – “Am I a carer?” clear? Please indicate in the comments box any information that should be added, removed, or particular parts of the chapter which would benefit by being presented differently.**

Yes/No

We would argue that the definitions provided require further clarity. This could be achieved by setting out a brief case study or example for each definition. It is essential that each definition is clear and accessible.

2. **Is the information presented in Chapter 2 – “Adult carer support plan” clear? Please indicate in the comments box any information that should be added, removed, or particular parts of the chapter which would benefit by being presented differently.**

Yes/No

This section requires further clarity as there are a number of important points that need to be included or signposted. These include:

- the arrangements in place if the carer resides in a different authority area to the cared-for person
- the support plan needs to have information and provision for emergency and anticipatory care planning
- transparency around why it might not be appropriate for a carer to have a copy of their ACSP
- access to independent advocacy should be included in the statement

3. **Is the information presented in Chapter 3 – “Young carer statement” clear? Please indicate in the comments box any information that should be added, removed, or particular parts of the chapter which would benefit by being presented differently.**

Yes/No

The language and terminology used needs to be accessible, age appropriate and child focused. The section needs to be amended to include any young carer who is not visible as a young carer.

The Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance (SIAA) is Scotland's national membership body for advocacy organisations. The SIAA promotes, supports and defends independent advocacy in Scotland. It aims to ensure that independent advocacy is available to any person who needs it in Scotland.

The statement should also outline the actions to be taken by local authorities and integrated joint boards in order to reduce the responsibilities of the carer and reviews should be implemented as necessary. As per the previous section, there should be transparency around who can view the support plan and each carer should have access to independent advocacy implemented in their statement.

- 4. Is the information presented in Chapter 4 – “Support as a carer” clear? Please indicate in the comments box any information that should be added, removed, or particular parts of the chapter which would benefit by being presented differently.**

**Yes/No**

If the identified needs of the carer are unable to be met by the local authority or an integrated joint board, it should be statutory for the local authority to identify, source and implement the required services from elsewhere. This needs to be clear in the terminology used in this section.

We would argue that independent advocacy is essential for carers in order for them to know their rights, identify available options and access services and support.

Collective Advocacy is a really good way for groups of people to be involved in the design, delivery and review of services by local authorities and integrated joint boards.

- 5. Is the information presented in Chapter 5 – “Carer involvement in services” clear? Please indicate in the comments box any information that should be added, removed, or particular parts of the chapter which would benefit by being presented differently.**

**Yes/No**

More clarification is needed in regards to the responsibility of local authorities and integrated joint boards to provide care and support if the carer is unable to be responsible for the role. It is vital that carers understand and are fully informed about exactly what their role will involve.

We would also suggest that this section could be clarified through the development and inclusion of case studies.

- 6. Is the information presented in Chapter 6 – “Hospital discharge” clear? Please indicate in the comments box any information that should be added, removed, or particular parts of the chapter which would benefit by being presented differently.**

**Yes/No**

This chapter could be strengthened by planning for the discharge process at the point of admission, as this may also affect the treatment plan. It also needs to be clear who will meet the requirements of an ACSP in the hospital environment.

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**7. Are there any rights of carers under the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 not captured in this draft of the charter that should be included?**

**Yes/No**

The Charter should make clear that local authorities have a duty to tell carers about independent advocacy services that are available to both themselves and the person they are caring for. The Charter should also make it clear that Carers with mental health issues themselves are entitled to independent advocacy under the Mental Health Act

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