

Scottish Carers Benefit Advisory Group

8 June 2016, New Register House, Edinburgh

Present

Beth Hall, CoSLA
Heather Noller, Carers Trust
Ellen Searle, Social Security Policy and Delivery, Scottish Government (Chair)
Trish Brady-Campbell, Analytical Division, Scottish Government
Suzanne Munday, MECCOP
David Formstone, Social Work Scotland
Dawn Abel, Social Security Policy and Delivery, Scottish Government
Carole Jones, Social Work, Falkirk Council
Ed Orr, Programme Management Office, Scottish Government
Kevin Fallon, Carers Policy, Scottish Government
Paul Traynor, Young Adult Carers Policy and Campaigns Officer, Carers Trust
Robert McLaren, Programme Management Office, Scottish Government

Apologies

Nicola Dickie, CoSLA
Peggy Winford, Carers Policy, Scottish Government
Fiona Collie, Carers Scotland
Ian McPhee, Stirling Carers Centre
James Marshall, Stirling Carers Centre

Welcome and Introductions

1. The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Trish Brady-Campbell, Ed Orr, Kevin Fallon and Robert McLaren all from Scottish Government to the group. Trish is taking over from Mel Giarchi as analyst. The chair thanked James Marshall for his input to the group and advised that he would no longer be a member as he was moving to a new post.

Minutes of previous meeting on 25 April 2016 (paper CBAG 5/2016)

2. The previous minutes were agreed. Attendees agreed the role and remit of the two short life working groups (paper CBAG 5/2016) and provided suggestions for the Chair and membership. The groups would report back up to CBAG.

Update on social security post-election

3. New Ministers were now in place. The Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities is Angela Constance and Jeane Freeman is the Minister for Social Security. In addition to the commitments in the SNP manifesto, on 25 June, the First Minister announced that the Government would consider the introduction of a young carer's allowance to provide extra support for young people with significant caring responsibilities. The plan, subject to Ministerial agreement, was to undertake an initial mapping exercise of the financial and non-financial

support available to carers and gather evidence on the needs of young carers to help identify gaps in provision. A short-life working group would then be set up comprising of all interested parties to consider options and make recommendation to CBAG and then Ministers. Scottish Government officials would keep CBAG updated on progress.

Consultation (paper CBAG 6/2016)

4. Policy officials introduced the draft chapter on carer’s allowance which would form part of the consultation. They explained that it was an early draft and likely to be subject to change, however, it was important that members got early sight on a confidential basis and were able to input now. There would be further opportunities to comment. The key points raised in the subsequent discussion were:

- need to be clear on the purpose of the benefit
- important to manage expectations
- further clarify the questions
- reflect the diversity of the caring population
- highlight links to reserved benefits and Self Directed Support

5. The group then participated in a workshop and were asked to brainstorm on i) who are the hard to reach users and partners ii) what mechanisms could be used to reach them iii) how could their organisation help and what support did they need from the Scottish Government. Members fed back their findings – see Annex A.

Round up and next steps

6. The chair thanked everyone for their participation. Officials would revise the draft consultation in light of member comments and recirculate it, and develop launch and engagement arrangements taking into account the outputs of the workshop exercise. The other focus going forward would be the short term working groups and meetings would be set up shortly.

Action points

Action by whom	Action	By	Notes
SG	To inform members of meeting dates for rest of 2016	SG	
SG	To circulate revised role and remit papers for short life working groups	SG	
SG	To send out invitations to prospective members of each short life working group and set up meetings	SG	
SG and CBAG	To circulate a revised version	SG	

	of the carer's allowance chapter of the consultation paper for members comments		
SG	To keep members informed about progress on Young Carer's Allowance	SG	