

Carers (Scotland) 2016 Act

Update November 2017

Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 introduces new rights for unpaid carers and new duties for local authorities and health boards to provide support to carers. It is a key piece of new legislation that promises to promote, defend and extend the rights of adult carers and young carers across Scotland.

The focus now moves from drafting regulations and guidance to supporting the implementation of the Act. The Act will come into force on **1 April 2018**.

Key parts of the Act include:

- ✚ Moving from Carers Assessments to an **Adult Carer Support Plan** for adults and a **Young Carers Statement** for young carers. These must include emergency/future planning and support for the carers own personal outcomes
- ✚ Supporting carers of someone with a terminal illness
- ✚ Authorities need to set eligibility criteria to determine carers who are eligible for support as well as recognition that authorities must provide support if these criteria are met
- ✚ Consideration whether support might include 'short breaks'
- ✚ Emphasis on support and involvement for carers at point of hospital discharge
- ✚ Ensuring information and advice is accessible for carers
- ✚ Involvement of carers and young carers in the planning of services
- ✚ Development of Local Carer and Young Carers Strategies

Young Carers Statement

North Ayrshire, in partnership with the Scottish Government, has been a pilot site for the new Carers Act. This pilot focus has been to develop a Young Carers Statement and to develop Eligibility Criteria for both adult carers and young carers in line with the requirements of the new Act.

Young Carers Statement (YCS)

In North Ayrshire we have developed a Young Carers Statement focusing on three key areas: quality of life, managing your caring role and emergency planning.

Consultation with young carers throughout North Ayrshire has enabled us to co-produce a Young Carers Statement that meets the needs of young carers and offers outcome based support as needed.

YCS includes:

- ✚ Young carers caring role and positive relationship with the cared for person
- ✚ Maintaining health and wellbeing
- ✚ A life of my own
- ✚ Choices in caring
- ✚ Feeling informed and listened too
- ✚ Supporting outcome based needs
- ✚ Emergency planning

We have identified a supporting officer for the YCS work and live testing of the YCS will begin in January 2018.

Findings from the live testing will guide us towards the next steps, ensuring that full YCS implementation is ready for 1 April 2018.

Eligibility criteria

Eligibility criteria for both adult carers and young carers has been developed using the National Carer Organisation Thresholds (NCO) and CoSLA National Eligibility Criteria, adapting these to fit.

Adult eligibility criteria

- ✚ Developing a local adult carer eligibility criteria with consideration of NCO thresholds and CoSLA National Eligibility Guidance
- ✚ Consultation of the proposed eligibility criteria with staff and carers
- ✚ Agreement from the Partnership as to the level of support we are able to offer across the spectrum of low–critical need
- ✚ Identifying support for adult carers and reviewing ongoing work with Self-directed support

Young Carers eligibility criteria

- ✚ Developing a local young carer eligibility criteria with consideration of NCO thresholds and GIRFEC approaches
- ✚ Agreement from the Partnership as to the level of support we are able to offer across the spectrum of low–critical need
- ✚ Consultation of the proposed eligibility criteria with staff
- ✚ Consultation on what a break from caring could look like for young carers
- ✚ Identifying support for young carers and aligning this to thresholds

Other key developments to implement Carers (Scotland) Act 2016

- ✚ Live testing of draft Young Carers and Adult Carers Eligibility Criteria along with Young Carers Statements (YCS) and Adult Carers Support Plan (ACSP)
- ✚ Identifying better support for carers in hospital discharge process
- ✚ Raising awareness of the Act with internal and external stakeholders
- ✚ Developing training opportunities, exploring use of Equal Partners in Care (EPiC)
- ✚ Developing better local information for carers
- ✚ Updating the Carers and Young Carers Strategy for North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership

How are Carers and Young Carers involved in health and social care services?

North Ayrshire Carers Advisory Group will continue to work with and advise us. The group members include carers from the Partnership, Education and local carers who are members of the Integration Joint Board and Locality Planning Forums.

The Carers Advisory Group works with guidance from the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016, North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership Strategy 2016–18 and Carers Strategy 2014–2018.

The group advise us how best to embed Carers Rights across all our services, influencing policy and strategies that enable all carers to achieve their full potential and enhance their quality of life.

We prioritise the interest of carers through their active involvement in the development and delivery of services, from local carer groups to the Integration Joint Board.

North Ayrshire Carers Centre also support adult and young carer groups and provide carers with the opportunity to mix with their peers. We have the opportunity to attend groups in order to consult with all carers about our services

As a Partnership we are working to update the current **Carers Strategy** during 2018 with full involvement from all carers and partners such as North Ayrshire Carers Centre.

How do I find out more information?

There is more information on the new Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 at <https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/carers/carers.aspx>

If you would like to take part in further consultations to help shape future support for carers in North Ayrshire, please contact Kerryanne Owens, Project Assistant on 01294 317784 or by email to Kerryowen@north-ayrshire.gcsx.gov.uk