



Carers (Scotland) Act 2016

Are you a working unpaid carer?

Do you come into contact with unpaid carers during the course of your work?

New rights for unpaid carers come into effect from 1 April 2018.

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New rights for unpaid carers and new duties for local authorities and health and social care partnerships come into effect from 1 April 2018.

The intention of the Act is to ensure unpaid carers are better supported so they can continue to care, if they wish, whilst maintaining their wellbeing and to have a life alongside caring.

A 'carer' is defined as someone who provides or intends to provide care for another person. There is no requirement for a carer to provide a substantial amount of care, on a regular basis.

The Act means:

1. Adult carers have a right to an 'Adult Carer Support Plan'.

An Adult Carer Support Plan is the new name for the carer's assessment. It is a conversation that identifies the extent to which the carer is able and willing to provide care and the 'personal outcomes' which matter to the carer in order to carry out their caring responsibilities, as well as any needs a carer may have. This will be arranged through Quarriers Carer Support Service, the local commissioned service provider.

2. Young carers have a right to a 'young carer statement'.

A Young Carer Statement is a plan that sets out information about the young carer's circumstances and caring role. The plan will set out a young carer's 'personal outcomes', the goals which matter to the young carer in order to continue to provide care, where that is appropriate, and have a life alongside caring. It will set out the needs a young carer may have and the support available to meet the carer's needs.

3: Carers have a right to support to meet any 'eligible needs'.

The local eligibility criteria is a framework used to identify whether an adult or young carer should receive support from the Moray Council and Health and Social Care Moray to meet their identified needs. In Moray we will use the national eligibility framework.

Carers may be offered support such as breaks from caring.

Support may be available from a wide variety of services and organisations. If a carer's identified needs do not meet the local eligibility criteria, support can still be provided for

example, information and advice; education and training and/or general support available in the local community.

If an adult carer meets the local eligibility criteria support may take the form of self-directed support (SDS).

5: Carers have a right to be involved in services.

Moray Council and Health and Social Care Moray have a duty to consult with carers when shaping services which impact on their caring role. This includes preparing local carer strategies.

6: Carers have a right to be involved in the hospital discharge process of the cared-for person.

The health board must ensure it involves the unpaid carer in hospital discharge planning.

7: Information and advice for carers

There is a duty on the local authority to have access for carers to information and advice services, covering a range of mandatory areas, including emergency planning (for example, through Quarriers Carer Support Services).

The local authority will publish a Short Breaks Statement with information about short breaks services available for local carers.

In addition, the Scottish Government are preparing a Carers' Charter setting out the rights of carers in the Act.

Specific staff briefings in Adult Services will be publicised shortly. Anyone who is a carer and wishes to find out more about carers rights should contact the local carer support service, Quarriers Carer Support Service (Tel: 01343 556031).

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