



Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 Summary

What is the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016?

The Carers (Scotland) Act introduces new rights for unpaid carers and new duties for local councils and the NHS to provide support to carers. The Act will come into force on 1 April 2018.

Who is an unpaid carer?

A carer is someone who provides or intends to provide unpaid support and care for another individual. They may care for someone who is disabled, has a long-term condition, mental health challenges or is affected by alcohol or drug misuse.

What will change?

In summary, the Act introduces a number of new provisions to identify and support carers. These include:

- Carers Assessments will now be replaced with Adult Carer Support Plans (**ACSP**) and Young Carers Statements (**YCS**). These will be available to all carers at their request.
- **Adult Carers** are defined as being at least 18 years old. **Young Carers** are defined as being under 18 years old, or 18 but are still pupils at school.
- Adult Carer Support Plans (ACSP) and Young Carers Statement (YCS) will help identify carers' personal outcomes related to their caring role.
- The ACSP and YCS will identify if a carer is eligible for support against local eligibility criteria. Eligibility criteria provide the framework used to determine who is eligible for social care services from their local authority.
- Carers who do not meet eligibility criteria will still receive help and can access services such as information and advice from local councils and local carer support services. Carers may also be offered support such as breaks from caring.
- The ACSP and YCS for anyone caring for someone with a terminal illness will be expected to be completed within a specific time limit.
- The NHS will be required to inform carers and take account of carers' views in making decisions relating to hospital discharge for the person they care for.

How will the Carers Act improve the quality of services available?

The Scottish Government want carers to be well supported on a more consistent basis so that they can continue to care, if they so wish, in good health and have a life alongside caring.

The Scottish Government is working with people across Scotland to prepare for introduction of the new duties in April 2018. The Act also sets out that carers should be involved in planning and developing services in their local area.