

The Carers (Scotland) Act

The primary law that affects carers in Scotland is called the Carers (Scotland) Act. Has now been implemented from April 2018 and will replace parts of existing legislation that supports unpaid carers. The Act will make it simpler for carers to be identified as needing support with their caring role, and will make getting this support easier too.

Carers assessments are now known as **Adult Carer Support Plans** (for adults) and **Young Carer Statements** (for young carers under 18). Both of these will focus more on how the caring role is affecting the person, rather than the number of hours spent caring.

The Act specifies there must be certain things included in support planning for carers, such as emergency and future planning, the carer's personal outcomes, how much care the carer is willing and able to provide, and whether any support could include a break from caring.

The key duty in the Act is that carers who meet eligibility criteria must be provided with support to meet their identified needs. When carers do not meet eligibility criteria for support, local authorities must set out how they will meet those needs.

Each Health & Social Care Partnership must set their own local eligibility criteria, and must consult and involve carers and representative organisations when developing the criteria.

The Act has a lot of focus on carer involvement – both in local strategy development and development of services, and in assessment and services provided to the cared for person. There is also a duty on health boards to involve carers in hospital discharge of the person they look after.

If you wish to more about the Adult Carers Support Plan or Young Carers Statement please contact South Ayrshire Carers Centre on 01292 263000.