Carers (Scotland) 2016 Act

Update May 2019

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 legislation that promises to promote, defend and extend the rights’ of adult carers and young carers across Scotland.

The Act came into force on 1 April 2018, and one year on we look at how this has been implemented by the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) and NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

Key parts of the Act include:

- Accessible Information and advice for carers
- Adult carers and young carers involved in service planning
- Adult Carers Support Plan (ACSP) and Young Carers Statement (YCS)
- Eligibility criteria to determine levels of support for carers
- Prepare and publish Short Break Statement
- Support and involve carers at point of hospital discharge
- Prepare and publish a carers strategy

Accessible Information and advice for carers

Unity, North Ayrshire Carers Centre provides independent information and advice for all North Ayrshire Carers age 8+.

HSCP purchased the licence for a Digital Resource for Carers in collaboration with Carers UK. All carers across North Ayrshire now have access to the free resource, and can access e-learning, carers forum, links to local information and access to a free Jointly App.

Adult carers and young carers involved in service planning

New carer representatives were recruited for the HSCP Carers Advisory Group (CAG) from each locality and continue to support and work with services across the HSCP. This includes embedding ‘Carers Rights’ across all our services. Carers influence policies and strategies that enable all carers to achieve their full potential and enhance their quality of life.

HSCP prioritise the interest of carers through their active involvement in the development and delivery of services, from local carer groups and locality planning forums to the Integration Joint Board (IJBJ).

A group of young carers have attend Peer Research Training delivered by local Modern Apprentices. These young carers are now using these skills to engage on focused areas with their peers.

Adult Carers Support Plan (ACSP)

The ACSP has been designed to allow carers to prepare on their own, or with the support from someone they choose. A further conversation will take place with Social Work staff, to look at outcomes from the carers conversation.

Eligibility thresholds are applied to the carer outcomes, to consider levels of support. This will range from universal services to potentially their own Self-directed Support Budget.

Young Carers Statement (YCS)

A YCS was developed focusing on three key areas: quality of life, managing your caring role and emergency planning.

YCS are being offered via schools and the named person will be preparing these with our young people. Young carers age 16-18 who are no longer within education can have their YCS completed via Service Access or the appropriate Social Care team.

Eligibility criteria

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

Young carers eligibility criteria were developed with consideration of NCO thresholds and GIRFEC approaches.

HSCP has introduced a Carers Resource Panel, which can be accessed for both adult or young carers. The
Purpose behind the fund is to support identified outcomes which are either a one-off or low-cost solution.

Some examples from preparing ACSP/YCS are: -

- Counselling
- Uniform for social club – i.e. Brownies
- Small equipment i.e. night light or timer

Support and involve carers at point of hospital discharge

Two Carer Support Workers (Hospital Discharge) are supporting carers in the Acute sites of University of Crosshouse Hospital and University of Ayr Hospital, in partnership with Carers Trust, Unity and the three Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnerships.

The Carer Support Worker identifies unpaid carers and provides them with the right information and advice at the right time. Supporting carers to be involved in the discharge conversation before their family member or friend goes home.

Acute sites staff are also supported to match local and national carer support for carers and building relationships and helping to embed processes between Acute and community resources, statutory organisations and other relevant third sector organisations.

Short Break Statement

HSCP will publish a Short Breaks Statement, late summer 2019. The draft statement will be approved by our CAG and HSCP governance structures.

Carers Strategy

HSCP have been working to update the current Carers Strategy over 2018/2019 with full involvement from carers and partners such as North Ayrshire Carers Centre, CAG and local carer groups. This will be drafted and tabled at CAG later in the year for approval and our HSCP governance structures.

Other key developments in implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016

- Piloting the opportunity for unpaid carers to complete an SVQ Level 2 Social Service and Healthcare
- Developing better local information for carers
- Raising awareness of the Carers Appreciation Card to all registered carers
- Developing new ways to engage with schools and families to raise awareness of young carers
- Successfully completing Level 2 Carer Positive Employer

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 or contact North Ayrshire Carers Centre, 174 High Street, Irvine or on 01294 311333

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