

Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 Briefing

The implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 is on the 1st April 2018. The Act places a number of new duties on all Scottish local authorities and health and social care partnerships to support unpaid adult and young carers in a different way.

New duties include:

- An Adult Carer Support Plan (ACSP)
- A Young Carer Statement (YCS)
- Supporting carers by having a local carer eligibility criteria
- Preparing a local carer strategy
- Providing an information and advice service
- Publishing a short breaks services statement
- Involving carers in the discharge from hospital of the individuals they care for

From the 1st April 2018, the Carer's Assessment will be replaced by the ACSP and YCS, and identifies the individual carer's identified needs, personal outcomes and support (if any) to be provided. The intention is to support carers in a flexible, person-centred way, before they reach crisis point. We will work with commissioned services and third sector partners to achieve the identified personal outcomes of those who meet our eligibility criteria.

From 1st April 2018 please contact the Quarriers Aberdeenshire Carer Support Service to find out more about the ACSP and YCS or to request one. Quarriers provide a Carer Support Service to both adult and young carers in Aberdeenshire. The service they provide is varied and includes:

- Identification of carers who may not know that support is available
- Providing a listening ear for carers
- Adult Carer Support Plans
- Young Carer Statements
- Information and advice for carers (local services or resources, benefit entitlement and regular newsletters)
- Making links with other carers (through various groups and other methods)
- Supporting carers to develop confidence and skills (training and advice available)

Carer Events

We would like to acknowledge the work of our unpaid carers in Aberdeenshire. Unpaid carers are invited to an event in their local area in April 2018. These events are an opportunity to spend an afternoon in the company of other carers and to find out what the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 will mean for carers. Carers will be able to find out about local resources and meet the Health and Social Care Managers in their area. We will be announcing the winners of the poetry and photography competition, run jointly with Quarriers. Refreshments will be provided.

Banff - Monday 16th April - Banff Springs Hotel AB45 2JE 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Inverurie - Wednesday 18th April - Garioch Heritage Centre AB51 4FY 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Stonehaven - Friday 20th April - Stonehaven Town Hall AB39 2BU 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Peterhead - Monday 23rd April - The Waterside Hotel AB42 3BN 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Ellon - Wednesday 25th April - New Inn Hotel AB41 9JD - 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Banchory - Friday 27th April - Banchory Lodge Hotel AB31 5HS 1:00pm – 3:00pm

If you are a carer, please mail Carersupport@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or call **01467 530712** by **Friday 16th March** to book your place at your chosen event.

We plan to recognise the work of our young carers by organising events during the summer holidays. Our plan is to provide opportunities for our young carers to participate in various fun activities, leisure pursuits and interests.

Carer Pathway

The Health and Social Care Partnership has decided on the Carer Pathway from 1st April 2018. Quarriers Aberdeenshire Carer Support Service will continue to support carers from the point of identification or referral to their service, support carers with lower level needs and refer those carers with substantial or critical needs (as per the eligibility criteria) to an Aberdeenshire Council Carer Practitioner, based at the Quarriers' hub, Inverurie.

Quarriers will carry out Adult Carer Support Plans and Young Carer Statements with the Carer Practitioner carrying out Self-directed Support (SDS) for carers with eligible needs. Both Quarriers staff and the Carer Practitioner will communicate and work in partnership with the allocated worker for the cared for (where applicable).

We would like to reiterate our appreciation to the practitioners and stakeholders who contributed to the development of the Carer Pathway. We are now progressing the recruitment of a Carer Practitioner.

Carers Act Implementation Group

The group's remit is implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016, to plan the way forward and contribute to achieving and meeting the Act's legal requirements. This group includes various practitioners and stakeholders. We are currently on target to meet the deadlines of the subject matters detailed within this plan.

Carer Census

The Scottish Government has specified mandatory data collection items to provide baseline data, or a starting point to monitor the implementation of the Carers Act. It is important to collect data to assess the impact of the Act. Local Authorities and other agencies have been asked to review their systems and implement the necessary changes. To achieve this, we asked Quarriers Aberdeenshire Carer Support Service to redevelop their information system to record the data required. We have also made changes to our current systems to record the details of unpaid carers. As we have asked practitioners to record details of unpaid carers, we requested the redevelopment of our Fair Processing Notice, to be used until the Privacy Notice is introduced on 25th May 2018 by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). From the 1st of April 2018, the ACSP and YCS will also gather data required by the Scottish Government.

We thank those involved for their cooperation. Reports are on target to be submitted to the Scottish Government when requested. The data analysis will assist the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Government, carers' organisations and other stakeholders to understand how the new Act is going to make a difference to the lives of carers across Scotland. The Census will also support discussions on future funding needs for support to carers.

Local Carer Strategy

Draft Local Carer Strategies for adult and young carers were shared widely for comment. From the feedback and comments, the draft Young Carer Strategy needed very slight amendments. On the action plan for Year 1 we have added the specific action around working in partnership with Aberdeenshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership (AADP). The finalised Young Carer Strategy will be taken to the Education and Children's Services Committee for endorsement before being published.

The feedback on the draft Adult Carer Strategy is currently being reviewed after consultation ended on 27th February 2018. This will then return to Integration Joint Board (IJB) in April for final approval before publication.

Carer Consultation

Carers have been consulted on the draft local carer strategies and currently being consulted on the draft eligibility criteria. We continue to promote the extension of the Reference Group already in existence and their remit includes the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016.

Short Breaks Services Statement

We are legally required to produce a Short Breaks Services Statement. This needs to be completed by the 31st December 2018 (but could change). A Short Breaks Services Statement is a statement of information about the short breaks services available in Scotland for carers and cared-for individuals. The information must be accessible and proportionate to the needs of the individuals it is provided for.

Shared Care Scotland, a national carer organisation, have set up a working group to look at national development of Short Breaks Services Statements. Monthly meetings are taking place until May 2018.

Involving carers in the discharge from hospital of the people they care for

We are currently working with the Health and Social Care Partnership and NHS Grampian colleagues to review what processes are already in place, and make sure we are meeting our statutory duties for this provision.

Carer Information Pack

We are reviewing the Pack. We anticipate this will be available to share electronically by the 1st April 2018. We plan to have printed copies available for distribution at the Carer Events in April 2018. We will post the updated printed copies to GP Surgeries, Community Hospitals, Dentists, Libraries and Schools. We are also looking at using technology to share the information in the pack including the possibility of developing a mobile phone app.

Next Briefing

The next Carers Act Briefing will be circulated in April 2018, internally by email. It will also be added to [Quarriers](#), [PAMIS \(Promoting a more inclusive society\)](#) and [Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action \(AVA\)](#)'s newsletters. The current briefing will be available on the Aberdeenshire Council website carer pages: <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/community-care/caring-for-others/carers-rights-and-legislation/>. Previous editions are available on request by emailing carersupport@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.



Thank you for reading our briefing document. If you have any queries about the information in this briefing or would like to find out what support is available to you, as a carer in Aberdeenshire, please email us carersupport@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

Carers Strategy Team