

Carers' charter – What to expect

Section 36 of the Carers Act requires Scottish Ministers to set out the rights of Carers in or under the act. The Carers' charter explores those rights.

The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016

Are you a Carer?

You are a Carer if you provide (or intend to provide) care for another person. You can be caring for any number of hours, it does not need to be regular or substantial.

You may be a parent, a partner, a son or a daughter, a sister or brother or friend to someone who needs support as a result of their illness (physical or mental illness and substance misuse), condition or disability. If you provide them with help and support to manage their life – you are also a Carer.

For more information visit:

www.gov.scot/Resource

[/0053/00533199.pdf](http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00533199.pdf)

The Act requires the local authority to have local information and advice for Carers. One aspect of information that must be provided are Carers' rights.

The Act came into effect on 1 April 2018, it extends and enhances the rights of Carers in Scotland to help improve their health and wellbeing, so that they can continue to care, if they so wish, and have a life alongside caring.

In the context of the Act, the care provision must not be under a contract or as a volunteer, it must be unpaid. Your cared for person must need support but not only (where they are under 18) because of their age.

Young Carers

Are under the age of 18 or over 18 but still attending school

Adult Carers

Are aged 18 and over and not attending school

Kinship Carers

Are looking after a child in place of the parents and meet the meaning of "Carer" not caring simply because of child's age

The responsible local authority must offer an Adult Carer Support Plan to anyone they identify as an Adult Carer. They must prepare an Adult Carer Support Plan for anyone who accepts this offer. They must also prepare an Adult Carer Support Plan for anyone who meets the definition of an Adult Carer if that person requests one.

The responsible authority must offer a Young Carer Statement to anyone they identify as a Young Carer. They must prepare a Young Carer Statement for anyone who accepts this offer. They must also prepare a Young Carer Statement for anyone who meets the definition of Young Carer if the Young Carer requests one.

The responsible local authority must provide support to any Carer who has identified needs (which meet local eligibility criteria) that cannot be met through support provided to the person being cared for, or through general local services.

The responsible local authority must involve Carers in planning their local carer services and when assessing Carers support needs. They must consider Carers views when assessing their cared for persons needs and additionally when preparing and reviewing short breaks statements.

Each health board must ensure that, before a cared for person is discharged from hospital, it involves Carers in the discharge of the cared-for person.

LOOK OUT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Adult Carer Support Plans

Young Carers Statements

Discharged From Hospital

Eligibility Criteria

Get Involved in Planning Services

Your rights under the Act:

Adult Carers have a right to an:
Adult Carer Support Plan

Young Carers have a right to a:
Young Carers Statement

Support comes in many forms from many organisations:
Right to support to meet any 'eligible needs'

Steps to involve Carers and carer representatives in planning and evaluation:
The right to be involved in services

Carers are informed, heard and their views considered before discharge:
The right to be involved in the hospital discharge process of the cared for person

For more information, please contact:

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