



The **Carers (Scotland) Act 2016** was passed by Parliament on the 4th February 2016. It is a key piece of new legislation that promises to 'promote, defend and extend the rights' of adult and young carers across Scotland.

The focus now moves to drafting regulations and guidance to support the implementation of the Act.

The government announced in July 2016 that the Carers (Scotland) 2016 Act will be commenced on the **1st April 2018**.

Who are Carers and Young Carers?

In the Act **carer** means an individual who provides or intends to provide care for *another individual (the "cared-for person")*.

In this Act **young carer** means a carer who—

- (a) is under 18 years old, or
- (b) has attained the age of 18 years while a

pupil at a school, and has since attaining that age remained a pupil at that or another school.

How many Carers are estimated to be in South Ayrshire?

It is estimated that there are approximately 657,000 unpaid Carers in Scotland and 7% of households have a resident carer. Based on the population in South Ayrshire this would translate to approximately 14,000 Carers of which 3500 households have a resident carer. 23% of all carers are caring for 50 hours or more.

The economic contribution that unpaid carers make to the economy is highly significant. It is estimated that carers save statutory services £7.6 billion per year in Scotland. In South Ayrshire carers support would cost £180 million to replace.

What are key components of the Act?

The Bill introduces a range of new provisions to identify, assess and support carers and young carers. These include:

Carers Assessments to be replaced by new assessments called **Adult Carer Support Plans** and **Young Carers Statements**

Carers whose identified needs meet local eligibility criteria will have a right to support

Carers whose identified needs do not meet local eligibility criteria should still have access to other

forms of support and information/advice and local authorities will still have a power to provide support

The development of local eligibility criteria must involve consultation and involvement of carers and carers organisations.

Carers cannot be charged for any support they receive Carers and Carers' organisations must be involved in planning, shaping and review of services for carers and young carers in their area.

Carers must be involved and have their views and caring role considered when determining the need for support and services to be provided to the cared-for person (with their consent).

Health Boards will have a duty to inform and involve carers in the discharge planning of the person they care for, or intend to provide care for

Local authorities and Health Boards will be required to jointly produce local carers' strategies

Local authorities must publish a short breaks statement

The Scottish Government must produce a carers rights charter

Information and Advice

Local Authorities (and/or HSCPs) must establish and maintain information and advice services for carers including activity addressing:

- rights
- income maximisation
- education and training
- advocacy
- health and wellbeing (including counselling)
- bereavement support services following death of a cared for person
- emergency care planning and future care planning for carers
- identification of info and advice likely to be of particular relevance to persons who have one or more protected characteristics

What is the Scottish Government doing in preparation for the implementation of the act?

Scottish Government has formed a national Implementation Group which has developed a high level action plan. It is developing the Regulations which are to be 'laid down' in Parliament in mid-2017.

They are also developing the official accompanying Guidance for the Act. This will be informed by 'pilot' activity in 9 sites. Information developed from the pilot sites will inform the Guidance due to be released in full by December 2017. Some key Guidance components will be available by summer 2017, for example, Eligibility Criteria.

South Ayrshire HSCP is a pilot site for Adult Carers Support Plan work and also work linked to Terminal Illness and Support Planning.

Scottish Government has also developed a 'Readiness Toolkit' that allows Partnerships to self-assess how well they are planning for the implementation of the Act by April 2018.

What is happening in South Ayrshire?

South Ayrshire has a Strategic Planning Group which is concerned with implementing the Act. A sub-group from this Group will address Young Carers issues.

Following use of the SG Readiness Toolkit, an Action Plan has been developed setting out actions to be delivered between June 2017 and April 2018. A worker is being recruited to form part of the HSCP Planning and Performance Team for the next 12 months who will support the overall Act implementation tasks.

Key existing work includes:

- The pilot Adult Carer Support Plan work
- Development work on local Eligibility Criteria involving carers and other stakeholders
- Work to identify better support for carers in hospital discharge process jointly with University Hospital Ayr staff
- Work to raise awareness of the Act with internal and external stakeholders
- The development of training opportunities re carer/young carer needs for broad range of participants
- Exploring use of the Equal Partners in Care (EPiC) national training resource
- Developing better local information – for example, production of Strictly Carers, a new Carers Centre dvd

How are Carers and Young Carers involved?

South Ayrshire Carers Centre supports a Carers Reference Group. This has representation from across the area and nominates carers who sit on the HSCP Integration Joint Board and the Strategic Planning Advisory Group.

The Carers Centre also supports Young Carers and Young Adult Carers Groups who form an invaluable place to consult with younger people.

How are Carers currently supported?

Whilst universal health, care and other services offer support to carers the following organisations provide specialist support:

South Ayrshire Carers Centre based in the Sandgate, Ayr, offers:

- Information and Advice
- 1:1, Group and telephone support
- Outreach groups (Troon, Girvan Maybole)
- Financial inclusion
- Short Breaks access
- Health and well-being support
- Peer Support
- Young Carers and Young Adult Carers Group
- Carers Reference Group

Further information on their [web-site](#)

Crossroads provides respite services for those caring for complex or demanding people.

South Ayrshire Dementia Support Association (SADSA) provides Day Care services particularly for those with more advanced dementia

Ayrshire Hospice provides a range of support for carers caring for people with terminal illness, palliative and end of life needs including a Carers Cafe.

Alzheimer Scotland has a variety of supports including carers groups.

How do I find out more information?

There is more information on the Council web-site [here](#).