



# Carers (Scotland) Act 2016

## A Local Summary (Dec 2017)

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# What is the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016?

The Carers (Scotland) Act introduces new rights for unpaid carers and new duties for local councils and the NHS to provide support to carers.

The Act will come into force on 1 April 2018

A carer is someone who provides or intends to provide unpaid support and care for another individual. They may care for someone who is disabled, has a long-term condition, mental health challenges or is affected by alcohol or drug misuse.

# What will change? (1)

Carers Assessments will be replaced with Adult Carer Support Plans (ACSP) and Young Carers Statements (YCS). These will be available to all carers at their request.

Adult Carers are defined as being at least 18 years old.

Young Carers are defined as being under 18 years old, or 18 but are still pupils at school.

ACSP and YCS will help identify

- carers' personal outcomes related to their caring role.
- if a carer is eligible for support against local eligibility criteria.

Eligibility criteria provide the framework used to determine who is eligible for a funding for carer support.

# What will change? (2)

Carers who do not meet eligibility criteria will still receive help and can access services such as information and advice from local councils and local carer support services.

Carers may also be offered support such as breaks from caring.

The ACSP and YCS for anyone caring for someone with a terminal illness will be expected to be completed within a specific time limit.

NHS will be required to inform carers and take account of carers' views in making decisions relating to hospital discharge for the person they care for.

# The context of The Carers Act

The Act contributes to the Scottish Government's vision of a healthier and fairer Scotland, and sits within the wider policy landscape including: integration of Health and Social Care; GP contract; new social security powers; and Fair Work agenda.

For more information please visit

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/archive/CarersBill>

[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2016/9/pdfs/asp\\_20160009\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2016/9/pdfs/asp_20160009_en.pdf)