



To: Children and Young Person's Thematic Board

On: 17th November 2015

Report by:

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RENFREWSHIRE CARER'S STRATEGY 2013-16

1. Summary

1.1 The Social Work, Health & Well-being Policy Board approved the Renfrewshire Carers' Strategy 2013-16 in May 2013. The Carers' Strategy details the priorities and outcomes identified by local unpaid carers, and the actions for Renfrewshire Council, Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership and Renfrewshire Carers Centre which will support carers to continue in their caring role. The Strategy acknowledges the significant role adult, young adult and young carers play in supporting people and recognises carers as partners in the delivery of care.

1.2 Both the Local and National Strategies recognised that caring for someone can be a good experience for a child or young person; it can make them feel more valued and included; give them more responsibility and greater self-esteem; and help them feel more mature, confident and able to deal with problems. Caring can give young people skills in managing money, looking after the home and dealing with health and social care services. However, caring can potentially have a significant impact on the wellbeing of children and young people. These issues can include:

- poor attendance at school/college
- Lack of time to do homework, and poor concentration
- physical and mental health issues
- difficulty in finding free time for friends
- a greater risk to young carers of neglect and abuse, e.g. where there are drug and alcohol issues
- financial pressures for families

1.3 Locally, the young carers strategy group was established to focus on the implementation of the actions from the Carers Strategy (see attached appendix 1) . This group reports to Renfrewshire Carers Joint Planning, Performance and Implementation Group (Carers JPPIG) and the Children's Services Partnership (RCSP)



1.4 In 2014 a local young carers and young adults carers forum was established as part of the work of the Carers Centre and supported by Renfrewshire Children's Services Partnership. The forum has :

- Developed their own action plan based on their experiences as carers
- Met with senior managers in education and social work services.
- Met with Councillor Henry to raise issues that impact on them.
- Requested a 'Young Carers Champion' in the Council.
- Arranged a meeting with a local MSP
- Developed a DVD to be used as a training tool
- Established representation on the young carers strategy group

1.5 The carers centre and forum members will deliver a presentation to the Thematic Board meeting.

1.4 In October 2013 the Scottish Government announced plans to bring forward legislation intended to enhance the level of care and support available to carers and young carers in Scotland, through the publication of a Statement of Intent. Consultation on proposals for carer's legislation was published by the Government in early 2014 and a joint Social Work and Community Health Partnership response was homologated by the Social Work, Health and Well Being Policy Board on 6th May 2014. The Carers (Scotland) Bill which was introduced in Parliament on 9th March 2015. The Bill covers a range of areas relating to supporting carers including a number of new duties and requirements.

2. Recommendations

The Board are asked to:

- Note the progress in the young carers action plan
- Note the information related to the Carers (Scotland) Bill
- Note the issues raised in the presentation by the carers Centre and the Young carers Forum

3. Background

3.1 The Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach ensures that services focus on the wellbeing of children and young people including the particular needs for young carers.



3.2 The partnership supports a number of initiatives managed by Renfrewshire Carers Centre which seek to identify and support young carers and young adult carers, including:

- A forum where young carers and young adult carers are consulted on local issues and service developments
- 1 to 1 one and group support for young carers and young adult carers
- An Education worker who raises awareness of young carers in schools to promote identification and support
- Support to complete Duke of Edinburgh Award

3.3 While young carers face unique challenges, they have the same rights as all other children and young people, as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The demands made on young carers as a consequence of their caring responsibilities can often result in them being denied some of their rights as set out in the UNCRC. The actions set out in the Young Carers section of the Renfrewshire Strategy seeks to promote and protect these rights.

3.4 This strategy and action plan aim to ensure that young carers receive the support that they need to develop into successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens. It recognises that young carers should have their wellbeing needs identified and met. Young carers should receive the support they need to allow them to be children and young people, first and foremost.

3.5 Young adult carers (aged between 18 and 25 years) can face particular challenges. At a time when others their age are leaving school and making plans for employment, training and education, young adult carers often have to deal with demands, responsibilities and emotions that limit their future opportunities.

3.6 Young adult carers may, for example:

- be committed to continue to provide care, but may not be able to tell others, including careers advisors and jobcentre staff, that this is why they are not making other plans;
- feel that they have to continue to care, or professionals may assume they are going to;
- be anxious about leaving home because of worries about the person they care for or fear that a younger brother or sister may have to take on caring responsibilities; and
- be desperate to leave home at the earliest opportunity, but not have the knowledge and skills to deal with the challenges this brings.

3.7 Many young adult carers can face these difficulties when supports are no longer in place as they move away from services for children. Young adult carers can also feel



they don't 'fit' in to the services provided for adult carers. Ensuring that young adult carers are supported through this transition is vital.

Young Carers in Renfrewshire

3.8 The 2011 Census found that Renfrewshire had a population of 174,900¹. Estimates suggest that 13% of the population is providing care to someone. However there was variation in the percentage of carers by age band from 6% of 0-18 year olds caring for someone to 18% of those aged 70 and over.

3.9 As part of the 'Achieving Step Change in Children's Outcomes' programme, Renfrewshire's Children's Services Partnership undertook a wide ranging survey of 9 to 18 years school based young people and the results below are taken from the 'young carers' part of the survey:

- 23 % reported that they care for someone
- 35% reported that the person they care for lives with them

➤ Those who care for someone reported that they cared for a:

Brother	9%		Grandparent	39%
Sister	5%		Other family member	14%
Parent	18%		Other person	16%

➤ Those who care for someone indicated how often they cared or looked after the person:

Several times a day	16%		Once a week	17%
Every day	29%		Once a month	7%
Twice a week	22%		Less than once a month	9%

➤ Those who care for someone indicated why the person needs extra help:

Long term physical illness	11%		Drug dependence	2%
Mental ill health	8%		Alcohol dependence	4%
Physical disability	16%		Old age	31%
Learning disability	6%		Other	21%



3.10 A health and wellbeing survey was conducted in Renfrewshire's secondary schools in 2008. Of the pupils who responded to the question, 14% indicated they had caring responsibilities. Of those who had caring responsibilities, 54% spent between 1 and 4 hours per week caring for their relative; whereas, a further 37% spent 5 to 20 hours and 9% spent 21 or more hours caring for their relative.

3.11 Young carers appeared to suffer negative consequences as a result of their responsibilities and reported feeling stressed 24%; tired 23% and anxious 12%. In addition to their caring responsibilities, young carers were more likely to have additional demands on their time. 30% of young carers had a job compared to 25% without caring responsibilities.

3.12 A further survey in 2013 was able to gain a snapshot of the local situation from the Schools Health and Wellbeing Survey of Young People in Renfrewshire undertaken with S1 – S4 pupils.

- 27.8% of pupils live with someone who has at least one condition from disability, long term illness, drug/alcohol problem, mental health issue.
- 71% of these pupils provide care – 19% of pupil population surveyed.
- Time spent caring reported Mean of 2.68 hours per day and Mean 8.4 hours per week.
- Impact of caring - Highest scores on impact were in relation to stress (28%), tiredness (26%), unable to do homework (23%) and anxiety (16%). 8.8% reported it helped them organise their time.
- Of the 19% who help family members some key wellbeing issues were identified in relation to smoking, drinking, healthy eating, physical activity, sleep and bullying.

Young Carers/ Young Adult Carers' forum

3.13 As part of the implementation of the Carers Strategy, the involvement and meaningful engagement of young carers was central to the improvement plan. The forum was established in late 2014. Over a relatively short period of time the Forum has taken forward and informed the local planning for young carers in a significant way. The forum has:

- Developed their own action plan based on their experiences as carers
- Met with senior managers in education and social work services.
- Met with Councillor Henry to raise issues that impact on them.
- Requested a 'Young Carers Champion' in the Council.
- Arranged a meeting with a local MSP
- Developed a DVD to be used as a training tool
- Established representation on the young carers strategy group



- Identified the young carers authorisation card as area to explore further
- Identified transport cost as a barrier

Carers (Scotland) Bill (see Appendix 2)

3.14 The Carers (Scotland) Bill was introduced in the Scottish Parliament on 9th March 2015. The Bill covers a range of areas relating to supporting carers including a number of new duties and requirements in relation to young carers:

- Broader definition of carer and young carer (A **carer** is an individual who provides or intends to provide care for another individual. A **young carer** is a carer under 18 years old or who has reached 18 years while a pupil at school and remains a pupil at that or another school)
- Introduction of Young Carer Statement for young carers
- Involvement in decisions regarding support for themselves and, as appropriate, with regard to the cared-for person
- Local authority requirement to set and publish local eligibility criteria
- Introduction of duty to support carers (including respite)
- Local authority requirement to prepare a Carers Strategy
- Involvement in the planning, shaping, delivery and review of services
local authority requirement to establish and maintain an information and advice service
- Local authority requirement to prepare and publish a short breaks services statement

3.15 The alignment of the carers assessment and statement with the child's plan as part of the Children and Young Person (Scotland) Act 2014 duties will be important . We are awaiting Guidance from Scottish Government in relation to this.

Proposed Actions	Lead organisation and group	Wellbeing Indicator(s)	Milestones	Other relevant Community Plan Outcomes	Progress
1. Map number of young carers in Renfrewshire	Community Link Team, Carers Centre	Safe	<p>Initial milestone: Develop additional mapping if needed, match current resources and support to potential young carers Link up mapping across agencies</p> <p>Milestone level to achieve outcome: Develop ongoing mapping through systems and identify potential need and resources needed to support young carers in Renfrewshire as part of planning processes across agencies</p>	<p>Children and young people in Renfrewshire will: Have the best start in life; being ready to learn, supported to achieve and ambitious throughout and beyond their school lives.</p>	<p>Correlation of various surveys that include information about young carers has begun to produce an up to date estimation of number of young carers in Renfrewshire(e.g. 2008 wellbeing survey; 2011 census; 2010 Achieving Step Change epidemiology study; 2013 wellbeing survey)</p> <p>Wellbeing survey 2013 has provided information on numbers of carers (self reported by young people)</p> <p>Request will be made for further questions to be included in 2016 epidemiology study.</p> <p>Pupil support coordinators in all secondary schools have been provided with information on numbers based on the wellbeing survey</p>

<p>2. Identify young carers through Planning Processes</p>	<p>RCSP/GIRFEC Team, Community Link Team</p>	<p>Safe</p>	<p>Initial milestone: Include question about young carers in single and interagency assessments Milestone level to achieve outcome: Multi agency, universal identification questions are embedded as part of the child's plan process.</p>	<p>By 2023, the partners aim to see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All members of our community, in particular our most vulnerable children, young people and adults, living in a safe, inclusive and nurturing environment where they are respected and free from abuse and neglect. <p>ICS Plan 2.3</p>	<p>Questions based on caring role will be incorporated into a revised Child's Plan (Integrated Assessment)</p> <p>Consultation with young people has taken place and questions with follow up questions have been devised which can be added to the Integrated Assessment</p> <p>The Carers Bill outlines the duty to identify needs of young carers via the Carers Statement. This will be aligned with GIRFEC implementation in 2016.</p>
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<p>3.Highlight issues faced by young carers and identify types of support they may need</p>	<p>Community Link Team/Carers Centre</p>	<p>Nurtured Safe Respected</p>	<p>Initial Milestone: Clarify and identify key issues through work with young carers carers centre/other voluntary agencies and research nationally Look at current support available, identify gaps and training/information needs Milestone level to achieve outcome: Issues have been identified, training has been developed to highlight these to relevant adults, identified gaps in understanding or support services are being addressed on an ongoing basis A system of consulting with young people and young carers is in place</p>	<p>Children and young people in Renfrewshire will: Have the best start in life; being ready to learn, supported to achieve and ambitious throughout and beyond their school lives.</p>	<p>An awareness raising training plan for secondary schools has been developed.</p> <p>Inputs arranged for pupil support coordinators meeting for primary and pre5 establishments</p> <p>Following workshops and consultation, a Young Carers/Young Adults Carers Forum has been developed, the group had its first meeting in November 2014 and meet monthly to work on Actions in the Young Carers Strategy as well as identify issues they want raised through the CPP.</p> <p>Young adult carers and the Young Carers Education Worker have attended the Social Work senior management team to highlight issue of support</p> <p>Managers from adult and children's services will identify improvement actions</p> <p>Senior managers from education and social work attended the young carers group to discuss areas for additional support</p> <p>Young carers forum will attend a meeting of the Children and Young People Board to raise awareness across the Community Planning Partnership in November 2015.</p> <p>The forum has written to the Council to explore the possibility of a Young Carers Champion. Cllr Henry has attended to forum to discuss this (May 15)</p> <p>The Carers Centre and the Forum has developed a DVD to be used for awareness raising across services , launched in October 15 to be used as a resource in training.</p>
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<p>4. Continue to work with secondary schools/maintain established links and develop ongoing work.</p>	<p>GIRFEC Team/ Renfrewshire Carers centre</p>	<p>Nurtured Included, Achieving</p>	<p>Initial Milestone: Work in schools is coordinated through Children's Services Support Officers. (CSOs).All schools are aware of support Carers Centre can offer and have sessions in schools. In the same way links are developed with primary schools. Milestone level to achieve outcome: Ongoing funding is identified to continue work in all schools; a rolling programme has been developed and is linked into other training programmes, signposting to other support services for young carers. Young carers are being identified through schools. A local event for young carers is developed. Assessment of, numbers of young carers is reported into the planning process.</p>	<p>Children and young people in Renfrewshire will: Feel confident and be responsible ; able to participate fully in learning and in their wider community. They can take part in opportunities which meet their needs, interests and aspirations. Live in a safe, stable nurturing environment at home and in the community – where their rights are respected, they are free from poverty and neglect and supported to be resilient and to thrive Integrated Children's Services Plan 2.1</p>	<p>Links are now well established between education and the Carers Centre A presentation by The Carers Centre with input from Adult Young Carer to all secondary heads and principal teachers has taken place. An awareness raising training plan for secondary schools has been developed and plans are in place to deliver training in all secondary schools, with an overview maintained via the Young Carers Strategy Group.</p>
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<p>5. Work with Primary Schools</p>	<p>Community Link Team/ Renfrewshire Carers Centre</p>	<p>Nurtured Responsible</p>	<p>Initial Milestone: A development plan is drawn up with primary schools and the Carers Centre of the best way to develop support in school and an action plan is put in place Milestone level to achieve outcome The input into primary schools is rolled out and with a coordinated approach through CSSOs linked into the secondary school work and training programs. The need for support and advice for parents is looked at along with developing appropriate way to inform and enable parents/children/ to self identify and to ask for support if needed</p>	<p>Children and young people in Renfrewshire will: Feel confident and be responsible ; able to participate fully in learning and in their wider community. They can take part in opportunities which meet their needs, interests and aspirations. Live in a safe, stable nurturing environment at home and in the community – where their rights are respected, they are free from poverty and neglect and supported to be resilient and to thrive ICS Plan 2.2</p>	<p>Link established with CSSO team Input arranged for pupil support coordinators meeting for primary and pre-5 establishments Plan being developed to roll out to primary schools A DVD produced by the Young Carers has been completed as a resource</p>
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<p>6.Additional needs of Young Carers are considered when carrying out single and interagency assessments</p>	<p>GIRFEC Team</p>	<p>Safe Respected</p>	<p>Initial Milestone: Work with Integrate Assessment Framework (IAF) team and young carers to develop a specific question to be added to the IAF with follow up questions Look at who would support in the case of a clear identification as needs linked to caring responsibilities being the main need of the young person. Milestone level to achieve outcome Development of a standard question and set of follow up questions to be used across agencies for the Childs Plan Clear referral pathways have been established, any gaps are identified and measures taken to address these. Training is developed to be included in all agencies assessments training in relation to identifying YC.</p>	<p>By 2023, the partners aim to see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All members of our community, in particular our most vulnerable children, young people and adults, living in a safe, inclusive and nurturing environment where they are respected and free from abuse and neglect. 	<p>Work with young carers from the Carers Centre established the type of questions that need to be asked.</p> <p>Consultation with young people has taken place and Questions have been finalised</p> <p>Questions and prompts based on caring role will be incorporated into a revised Child's Plan (IA)</p> <p>Following Social Work senior management team meeting , adult services agreed to review assessment to consider further any improvements needed to focus on the impact of caring role for young people</p> <p>The Carers Bill outlines the duty to identify needs of young carers via the Carers Statement. We are awaiting outcome of the consultation (April 2015) with a view to aligning this with GIRFEC implementation</p>
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<p>7. Develop and implement a Renfrewshire Young Carers Self Assessment and Inform Young Carers of their right to an assessment which considers the challenges they face</p>	<p>GIRFEC Team/ Carers Centre</p>	<p>Respected</p>	<p>Initial Milestone: Work with young carers to develop a child-friendly version of the leaflet. CSO and the PSE program establish them at all secondary schools. Include awareness raising with staff/training if necessary Explore other formats for the leaflet e.g. on line, social media. Establish pathway for self assessments and referrals Milestone level to achieve outcome All agencies and services for young people are aware of the self assessment and have copies of it available for young people Training programmes are in place to support any child who needs help to complete the leaflet There is a clear pathway to Carers Centre/support and to a child's plan if needed</p>	<p>Children and young people in Renfrewshire will: Feel confident and be responsible ; able to participate fully in learning and in their wider community. They can take part in opportunities which meet their needs, interests and aspirations.</p>	<p>The need for a young carers assessment will be progressed in consultation with the young carers group A DVD project has allowed young people to identify issues that carers may face and the DVD will be used as a resource to raise awareness in schools and with other audiences. Further discussion will take place with young people as we fully implement duties in the Children and Young People Act and the Carers Bill in 2016 ie the young carers statement and the Child's plan</p>
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<p>8. Provide Young Carers with relevant information and advice</p>	<p>Carers Centre</p>	<p>Respected Active Included</p>	<p>Initial Milestone: Review current services and identify any gaps, match need to current information and advice available Talk to young carers about the sort of information they find helpful and any barriers they have experienced in accessing information. Develop a forum for young carers. Milestone level to achieve outcome Relevant information in a range of formats along with information services are available across Renfrewshire, Young people and young carers are involved in monitoring what and how information is available and key staff have been trained as needed and know where to signpost young people.</p>	<p>By 2023, communities in Renfrewshire will be thriving, resilient and with a clear sense of place. They will: Be confident, fully engaged with and regularly consulted by public services. By 2023 our residents will: Be supported to live independently as long as possible in their own homes and communities.</p>	<p>Work with Renfrewshire Young Carers Forum (RYCF) and the Carers Centre to look at types and content of information The Carers Centre is now an established member of the Voluntary Sector Forum. Needs of young carers have a greater profile across services following training and awareness raising sessions Health services are working with acute services to identify areas of development for staff assessing needs of cared for patients.</p>
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<p>9. Raise awareness about the role of young carers and the pressures they face. Look at positive aspects of being a young carer in Renfrewshire</p>	<p>Carers Centre/ GIRFEC Team</p>	<p>Respected Responsible Included Healthy</p>	<p>Initial Milestone: Young carers are involved in developing promotional material and planning stigma challenging sessions in schools Young carers are part of the Positive About Youth campaign and RCSP promotion and delivery of GIRFEC The positives are included as part of any training packages for professionals. Milestone level to achieve outcome Renfrewshire has integrated issues faced by young carers positive and negative within GIRFEC approach. Issues about young carers are raised as part of education program for young people in schools for example PSE with resources from Carers Centre, with staff given some training on how to use these resources, Young carers issues are included in Health and sports program, YC are able to get forms of accreditation for their</p>	<p>Children and young people in Renfrewshire will: Feel confident and be responsible ; able to participate fully in learning and in their wider community. They can take part in opportunities which meet their needs, interests and aspirations. By 2023 our residents will: Be valued and respected irrespective of their age, physical disability or other needs. By 2023, communities in Renfrewshire will be thriving, resilient and with a clear sense of place. They will: Value and promote equality and diversity and the role of charitable and voluntary work.</p>	<p>Ways of raising awareness are being looked at by young carers via the Forum Young Carers issues were included in inter-agency staff magazine in November 2014 Development of DVD by carers centre and Young Carers Forum Positive About Youth awards now includes category for young carers Awareness raising taking place across all secondary schools Young carers have attended Social Work senior management team meeting Input planned for Children and Young People thematic board to raise awareness across services. Young carers and carers centre attended the youth participation event where a number of young people identified themselves as carers and have now linked to supports at the centre</p>
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			<p>caring roles, YC agenda is included when planning YP participation events</p>		
<p>10. Deliver a training package for significant adults services and agencies working with young people that covers welfare and wellbeing issues in relation to young carers and other young people in the household</p>	<p>Carers Centre/ GIRFEC Team</p>	<p>Safe Included Respected Responsible</p>	<p>Initial Milestone: Look at current training and identify how to add in key information about Young carers. Research other young carers training being used and look to the voluntary sector for evidence. Identify where further training may be needed and who would best benefit from this training, link across partners to identify where young carers training could be added to other basic training. Training for IAF to include section on young carers and effects on young people and families. Milestone level to achieve outcome Young Carers training is fully integrated in general training for staff Additional training has been developed to support relevant staff General training in young carers' issues and effect on young people is available for all partners.</p>	<p>Children and young people in Renfrewshire will: Feel confident and be responsible ; able to participate fully in learning and in their wider community. They can take part in opportunities which meet their needs, interests and aspirations. Have good physical, emotional and mental health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>Links with other voluntary agencies need has been established through Voluntary Sector Forum/Engage Renfrewshire</p> <p>The process of Adult Services assessing care needs and questions relating to the age of those caring for a person are being looked at with the view to including young carers issues and linking to a referral pathway into children's services</p> <p>CP and GIRFEC training incorporates issues relating to young carers.</p>

			Young people's training and peer education program has been developed. Training is linked to GIRFEC Approach and children's Rights...		
11. Review existing inter-agency CP & GIRFEC training in relation to YC needs	GIRFEC Team	Safe Included	<p>Initial Milestone: Review current training available across agencies and identify how to add into this with key information about young carers. Research other young carers training being used and look to the voluntary sector for evidence. Identify where further training may be needed and who would best benefit from this training. Training for IAF to include section on young carers and effects on young people and families. Milestone level to achieve outcome Young Carers section has been added and training is being undertaken.</p>	Children and young people in Renfrewshire will: Have good physical, emotional and mental health and wellbeing	Inclusion of young carers issues in all GIRFEC and Child Protection Training has been established

12. Increase the percentage of local carers who feel supported to continue their caring role	JPIG		Develop monitoring a and evaluation plan	Our residents will be supported to live independently as long as possible in their own homes and communities	Link to Adult Services assessing care needs and questions relating to the age of those caring for a person are being looked at with a view to including young carers issues and linking to a referral pathway into children's services
13. Early Identification of Young Carers to ensure necessary support from all partners	RCSP, GIRFEC Team	Safe Included, Nurtured Achieving		Live in a safe, stable nurturing environment at home & in the community – where their rights are respected, they are free from poverty & neglect & supported to be resilient & to thrive ICS Plan 2.3	Develop Young carers statement and plan Discussions about including questions as part of nursery enrolment if the child has a family member living in the home who has an illness Health focus on identification in acute and GP services Further consideration of the Young Carers statement needed as outlined in the Carers Bill.

Appendix 2

Carers (Scotland) Bill

Part 1 – Key Definitions

Meanings of “carer”, “young carer” and “adult carer”

A **carer** is an individual who provides or intends to provide care for another individual.

‘Carer’ does not apply

- in the case of a cared-for person under 18 years old, to the extent to that the care is or would be provided by virtue of the person’s age;
- if the care is provided by virtue of a contract;
- or as voluntary work.

A **young carer** is a carer under 18 years old or who has reached 18 years while a pupil at school and remains a pupil at that or another school.

An **adult carer** as a carer who is at least 18 years old but who is not a young carer.

Meaning of responsible authority: young carers

Where the young carer is a pre-school child, the responsible authority will be the health board for the area in which the child resides. In any other case, the responsible authority will be the local authority for the area in which the young carer resides.

Part 2 – Adult Carer Support Plans and Young Carer Statements

Duty to prepare Adult Carer Support Plan

An Adult Carer Support Plan is a plan prepared by a responsible local authority that sets out an adult carer’s identified personal outcomes, identified needs and any support to be provided by the responsible local authority to meet those needs.

The responsible local authority is required to prepare an Adult Carer Support Plan for a person if the responsible local authority itself identifies the person as an adult carer, if an adult self-identifies as a carer and the responsible local authority agrees.

The responsible local authority is the local authority for the area in which the carer lives. This will still be the case where the adult carer lives in a different local authority area to one in which the cared-for person lives.

Content and review of Adult Carer Support Plan

An Adult Carer Support Plan must contain:

- the adult carer’s personal circumstances;
- the extent to which the adult carer is able and willing to provide care;
- the adult carer’s personal outcomes;
- the adult carer’s needs for support;
- the support generally available;
- the support that the responsible local authority provides or intends to provide;
- whether support provided should take the form of a short break; and
- the circumstances for review.

The second and subsequent Adult Carer Support Plan prepared for a carer must contain information on the extent to which any support provided under a previous plan has assisted in achieving the carer’s identified personal outcomes.

Provision of information about plan

The responsible local authority should provide the information contained in the Adult Carer Support Plan to the adult carer to whom the plan relates and where appropriate, to any other person(s) at the carer's request, as soon as practicable after the revised plan is prepared.

Duty to prepare Young Carer Statement

A Young Carer Statement is a statement prepared by the responsible authority that sets out a young carer's identified personal outcomes (with reference to the safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible, included [SHANARRI] well-being indicators), identified needs and any support to be provided by the responsible local authority to the young carer to meet those needs. This will apply whether or not the young carer also requires a child's plan.

Content and review of young carer statement

A Young Carer Statement must contain:

- the young carer's personal circumstances, including the impact of caring;
- the extent to which the young carer is able and willing to provide support;
- the extent to which the care provided by the young carer is appropriate;
- the young carer's personal outcomes;
- the young carer's needs for support;
- the support generally available;
- the support which the responsible local authority provides or intends to provide;
- whether support should be provided in the form of a break from caring for the cared-for person;
- the circumstances for review.

Provision of information about statement

The responsible authority must provide the information contained in the Young Carer Statement to:

- the young carer to whom the young carer statement relates,
- the young carer's named person, and
- where appropriate, any other person the young carer requests.

Where the responsible authority, in relation to a young carer, is not the responsible local authority, the responsible authority must not provide the young carer statement to the young carer without the approval of the responsible local authority.

Part 3 – Provision of Support to Carers

Local eligibility criteria

The local authority is required to set the local eligibility criteria which it is to apply for its area. The local authority should consult with persons and bodies representative of carers and the eligibility criteria should be published. Scottish Ministers have the power to make regulations setting out national eligibility criteria.

Duty to provide support to carers

The responsible local authority has a duty to provide support to the carer to meet identified eligible needs.

The local authority should consider whether support should include support which provides a break from caring.

Scottish Ministers have the power to make regulations about the forms of support that would constitute a break from caring. Such regulations may make specific provision to deal with

cases where the support is delivered through the provision of replacement care or other services or assistance to the cared-for person. This includes provision about the role of the cared-for person in relation to how that care or those services or assistance are provided and whether that care or those services or assistance are to be regarded as support to the carer or to the cared-for person.

A local authority can make appropriate charges when providing services which support carers.

Part 4 – Carer Involvement

Local authority and health boards should involve carers and such persons and bodies representatives of carers in carer services.

The carer must have as much involvement as he or she wishes in relation to the preparation of the adult carer support plan or young carer statement.

The authority preparing care assessments should take into account the care which is provided, or to be provided by any carer.

Part 5 – Local Carer Strategies

Each local authority must prepare a local carer strategy, including information relating to the particular needs and circumstances of young carers in its area.

The strategy must include:

- the local authority plans for identifying carers in its area and how it will obtain information about the care they provide or intend to provide;
- the authority's assessment of the demand for support to carers in its area;
- the support which is available to carers in the authority's area, whether from the authority itself, the relevant health board or any other persons or bodies that the local authority deems appropriate;
- the authority's assessment of the extent of unmet need for support in the area;
- the authority's plans for supporting carers in its area;
- the authority's intended timescales for preparing adult carer support plans and young carers statements; and
- any other information that the authority considers to be appropriate.

Part 6 – Information and Advice for Carers

Information and advice service

Each local authority must establish and maintain an information and advice service for carers in its area.

Short breaks services statements

Each local authority to prepare and publish a short breaks services statement relevant to the persons who live in that area.

Part 7 – General Provision

Allows grants and loans to be made to voluntary organisations in connection with things they do which assist local authority in exercising their functions under this Bill.

Parts 2 to 6 of this Bill should be considered as part of provisions relating to the performance of functions by local authority for the purposes of that section. This will then allow local authority to make arrangements with voluntary organisations so that such organisations can provide assistance to local authority exercising functions under the Bill.

Financial Memorandum

The financial memorandum accompanying the Bill sets out the estimated costs associated with implementation of the Bill, including the duties on local authority. The costs are predicated on the Government's stated expectation that should the Bill pass, it might commence in April 2017.

The Government estimates that total funding of between a minimum £11 million in 2017-18 to £72 million in 2021-22 and a maximum of £12 million to £84 million in the same period will support carers, and includes funding for the Adult Carer Support Plan and Young Carer Statement, information and advice service (including a short breaks service statement), the duty to support carers, additional short breaks component and local carer strategies. However the Government does not give an indication of funding levels for individual Councils.

Waiving of charges for support to carers

The Government recently published regulations on the charging for support for carers which required local authority to waive charges for certain types of support, the regulations were published to clarify the position in respect of Self Directed Support. The regulations however are proving challenging for local authorities in relation to 'replacement care' as, "it is not always clear if replacement care is provided to the carer following a carer's assessment in order to meet the needs of the carer (where charges would be waived) or provided to the cared-for person in order to meet their assessed needs (and, therefore, chargeable)"¹. The Government expects to publish new regulations regarding this matter alongside a financial memorandum if there are cost implications.

¹ <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/86987.aspx>