

Do you provide care for someone?
You may be a parent, a partner, a son or 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 a carer.

What to expect The Carers (Scotland) Act

What is the Carers Act?

The Carers Act is a law which enhances the rights of carers in Scotland. The Act is intended to recognise the valuable role that carers play in supporting people with care needs as a result of their illness, condition or disability.

Getting carer support starts with a good conversation. Every carer will have different things that are important to them in their life. The diagram on the right helps to explain the carer pathway to support under the Act.



The Carers (Scotland) Act Carer Pathway to Support

Information and Advice Every carer is entitled to information about their rights as a carer and the support available to them locally. Contact North Lanarkshire Carers Together on 01698 404055



A good conversation The first step to receiving support as a carer is completing an adult carer support plan or young carer statement. It starts with a good conversation with your worker about your caring role and what is important to you. Your completed plan will set out what your needs and outcomes are. Contact Lanarkshire Carers Centre on 01698 428090/ 01236 755550 or Young Carers Project on 01698 258801



Support for the person you care for Support provided to the person you care for can help you as a carer. You have a right to be involved in the cared-for person's assessment and following reviews as far as reasonable or practical



Are your needs being met? Your needs may be met through the support provided to the person you care for and by support readily available to you, such as the support you receive from local carer organisations. If this is the case there will be no further action. Your plan will also inform you about the circumstances for review.



If your needs aren't met If there are things that you need support with as a carer then the local authority will apply their eligibility criteria for carers. This means they will assess the impact your caring role has on your life and decide if you meet the threshold for support



Do you meet the threshold?

YES- the local authority has a **duty to support you**. They will discuss self-directed support options with you in relation to your support needs.

NO- the local authority can still use their **power to provide you with support**. This includes access to information, advice and available support services and may in some areas also include additional support such as a short break. This will be discussed with you

What happens if I'm entitled to support as a carer?

Once you complete an adult carer support plan or young carer statement there will be agreed actions. If you meet the local eligibility criteria, you should be supported to choose the services and/or support that are right for you and best meet your **outcomes**.

Outcomes are a way of describing what is important to you and what you are trying to achieve. Some examples of outcomes are:

- My health is improved and is as well as it can be
- I feel valued and listened to
- I am able to spend more time with my friends and grandchildren

There is no duty for the local authority to provide a **short break**, however they must consider whether support to you as a carer should take the form of or include a break from caring.

Self-directed Support offers 4 different ways of delivering and managing support and is used to help work out with you how and when the support will be delivered. Self-directed support gives you as much choice and control of your support as you want.



Involvement

A key feature of the Act relates to carer involvement, there is a **duty to involve carers in the assessment of the cared-for person, as far as is reasonable and practical**. Once an assessment is completed, arrangements will be made for regular reviews and the duty to involve carers still applies.

Local Health Boards also have a **duty to involve carers, as far as reasonable and practical, when the person they care for is being discharged from hospital**.

Carer involvement also relates to the planning and development of services. Carers must be involved in the development of the local Carer Strategy as well the local Short Break Services Statement. If you would like to find out more about being involved in local carer strategy development, or becoming a carer rep in local planning groups contact North Lanarkshire Carers Together.

How do I find out about my rights as a Carer?

For information on the range of supports available to Carers in North Lanarkshire, including information on Carers' rights contact North Lanarkshire Carers Together on 01698 404055 or email

Enquiries@carerstogether.org

“ It should not be a slog to get our rights. I hope the Carers Act will help to change that. ”

To find out more about different parts of the Act and what they could mean to you as a carer please see our 'What to expect' leaflets. We have worked together with a variety of carers across Scotland to jointly develop a series of information leaflets answering the questions carers asked about the Act.

The Scottish Government has published a Carers' charter summarising carers' rights under the Act. To view the charter and download the 'What to expect' leaflets visit

www.carerstogether.org

North Lanarkshire's local eligibility criteria can be viewed at

www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/carers

Support for Young Carers is available. To find out more about specific support for Young Carers contact the Action for Children, North Lanarkshire Young Carers project on 01698 258801.

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