

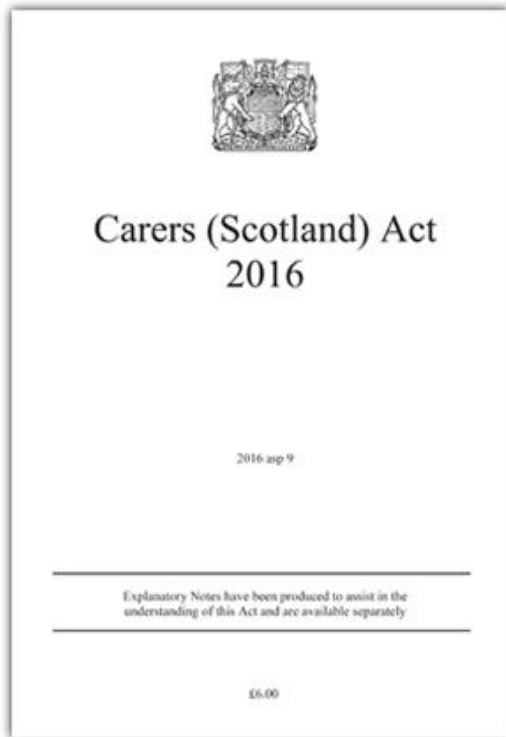


# Including Carers in the Implementation of the Carers Act

Shubhanna Hussain-Ahmed



# Why Include Carers : The Legislation



**Duty to involve carers in carer services, including involvement in service provision and evaluation.**

**Must "involve relevant carers" in preparation of local carers strategy and local eligibility criteria.**

# Why Include Carers: Expertise and Knowledge



Lived experience of carer services



Knowledge of local community



Experts in making best use of resources / budgets

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# Why Include Carers: Human Rights

## ***Participation***

Carers have the right to meaningful participation in decisions which affect them.

## ***Non discrimination and equality***

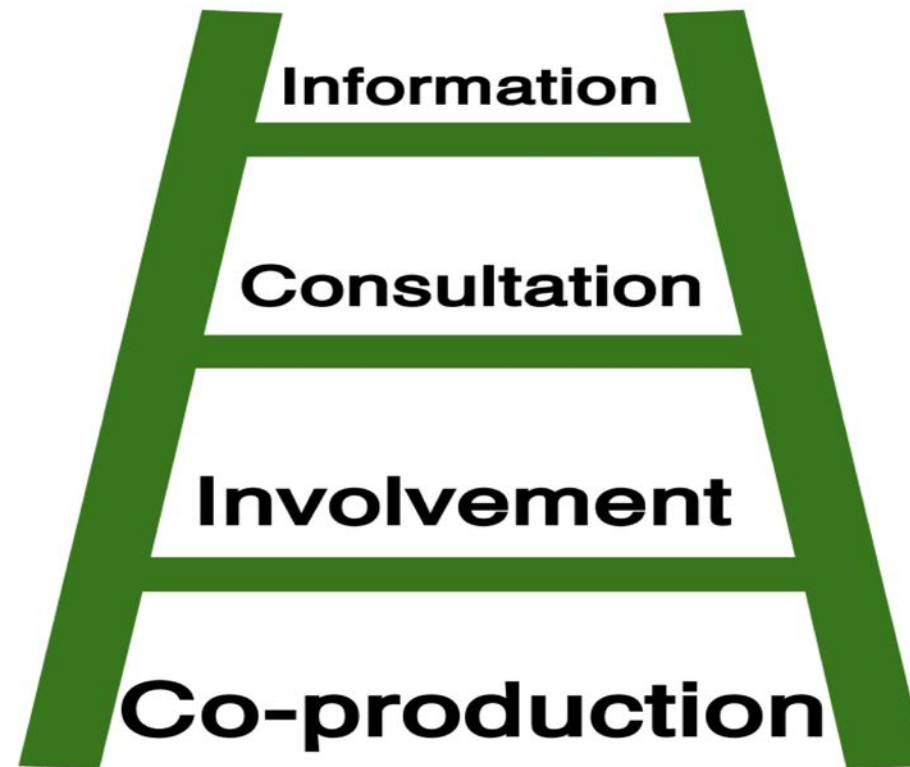
Barriers to enable all carers to participate should be addressed

## ***Empowerment***

Carers are supported to take an active role in developing policy and practices which affect them.

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# What Does “including carers” Look Like?



# Carer Engagement– Our Research



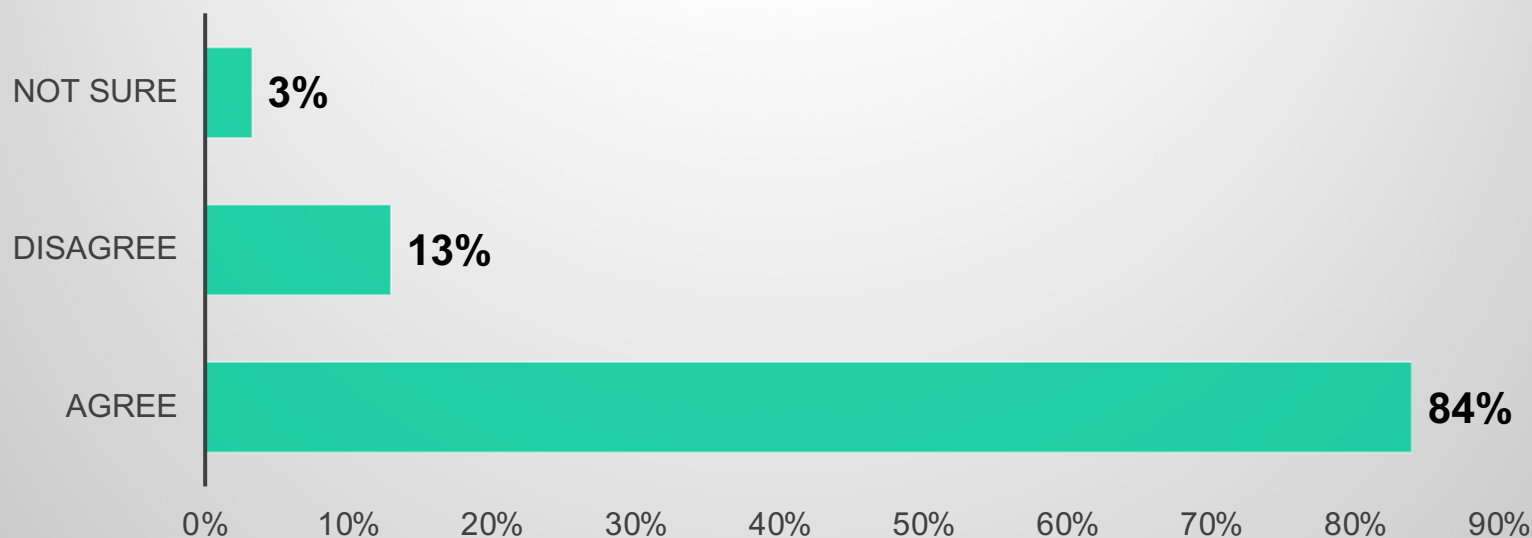
## Consultation / Involvement / Co-production:

Were carers and carer organisations included the design and development of the local eligibility criteria?

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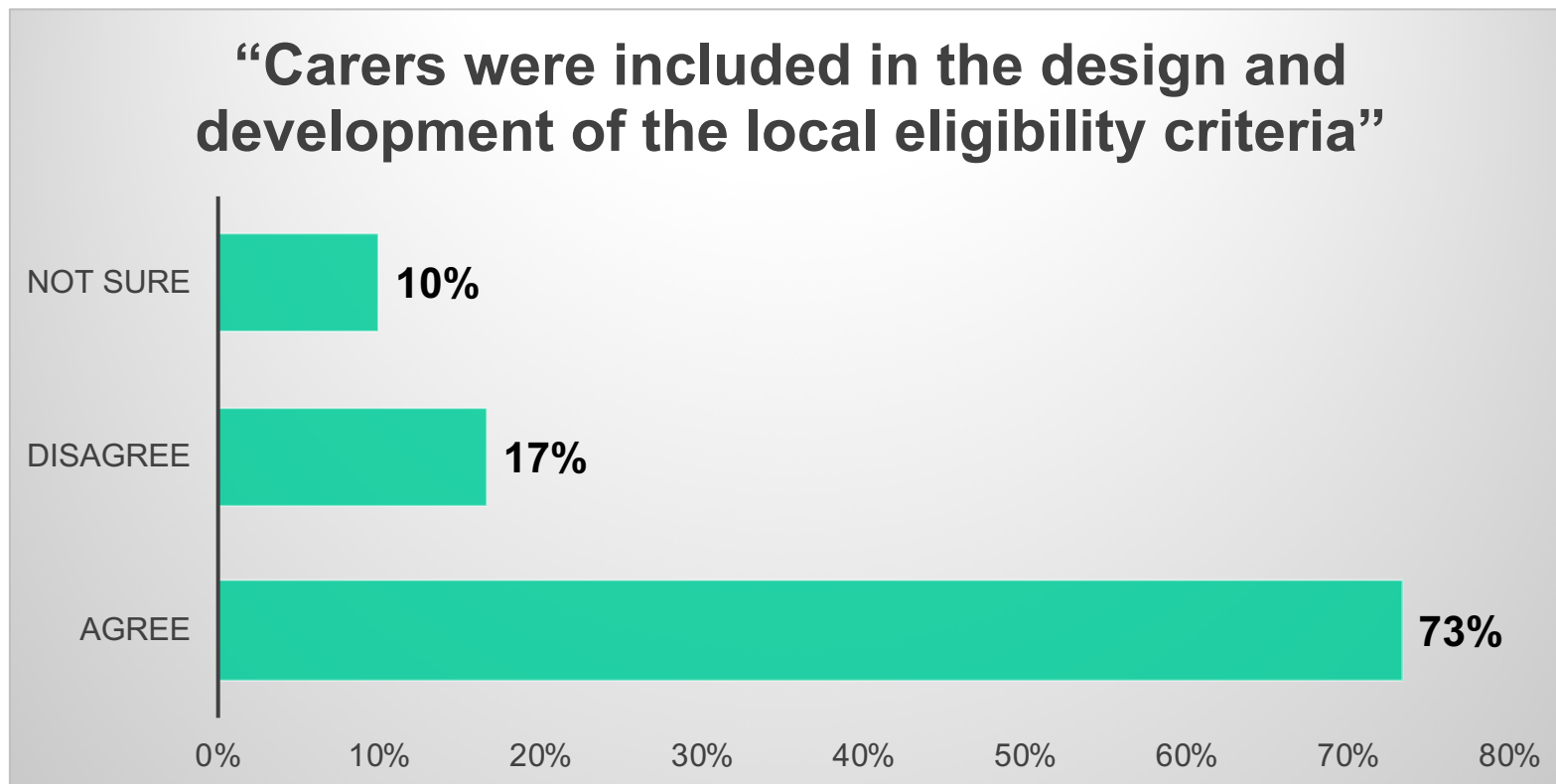
# Our Findings : Including Carer Organisations

**“Our Carers Centre was included in the design and development of the local eligibility criteria”**



*Sample of 31 carers centres in Scotland*

# Our Findings : Including Carers



*Sample of 30 carers centres in Scotland*



# Our findings : Real Carer Engagement...?

Young carers were involved in developing the original Eligibility Criteria but then were excluded and not consulted when it was changed.

If only 'Agree' could be interpreted as 'Agree - a little bit'!

It has been this carers centre that has done all the consultation around the Eligibility Criteria... truth be told if we didn't do it then it wouldn't get done as the local authority have shown no desire or inclination to do anything about this.



# Informing Carers about the Local Eligibility Criteria

## The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016:

### **1. Each local authority must publish its local eligibility criteria.**

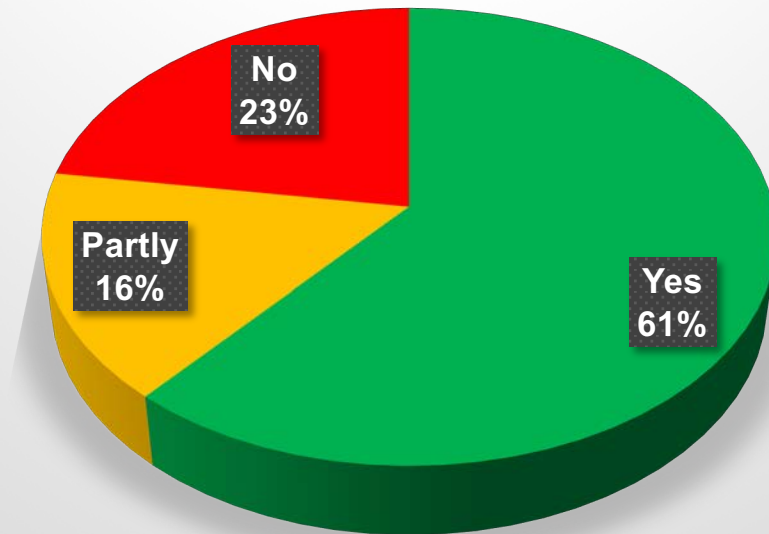
*The Act does not specify the method of publication but it is recommended that the local eligibility criteria (indicators and threshold) are published at least on-line and be readily available and easily accessible to managers and practitioners in the statutory and third sectors and to carers.*

### **2. The first local eligibility criteria must be published by 31 March 2018.**

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# Our Findings : Publication of the Local Eligibility Criteria

**Local Eligibility Criteria Published  
(October 2018)**



# Implications of our Findings

## Implications of not including and engaging with carers:

- Carers will be unaware of their rights
- Carers will be less likely to request support / help
- Carers more likely to reach crisis point

**DISEMPOWERMENT**

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# Including Carers : Identifying the Barriers

## Capability

- e.g. Do carers / staff have the knowledge / skills to take part?

## Motivation

- e.g. What is the incentive for carers/staff to take part?

## Opportunity

- Do carers/staff have the resources to do it?
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# **Including Carers : Are we there yet..?**

**Understand the barriers to engagement  
for carer AND staff**

**Address the barriers**

**Aim for co-production**

**Start with where you are**

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# Thank You



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