

Carers and Young Carers

Statement of Intent

1 October 2013

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The Scottish Government
Carers Policy Branch
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG
0131 244 5488

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Carers and Young Carers Statement of Intent

Commitment

Subject to the outcome of consultation, the Scottish Government intends to bring forward legislation to support carers and young carers with a view to securing parliamentary approval before the end of the parliamentary session.

The Scottish Government will hold a consultation later this year and provide an opportunity for carers, young carers, the wider public and professionals from the statutory and voluntary sectors to comment on and scrutinise the proposals.

Between now and the end of the year we will hold a number of events to help inform this consultation.

The Scottish Government will scope out the resource implications of the proposals. We will work with COSLA, local authorities, Health Boards, the National Carers Organisations and others to work up the detailed financial implications.

The Way Forward for Carers and Young Carers

Combined, the various strategies and new legislation outlined in the appendix to this Statement will have a positive impact on carers and young carers.

But there remain gaps. Caring brings considerable challenges for the 657,000 unpaid adult carers¹ and up to 100,000 young carers² in Scotland caring for their family, friends and neighbours.

Due to the hidden nature of some caring situations, there will be more people than this caring across the country. Some people do not identify themselves as carers. Others do not want to acknowledge that they are carers despite being encouraged to do so by family members and health and social care professionals. Some other people are not identified as carers by professionals.

Identification as a carer is the first step to a carer's assessment or to support without an assessment. This is what we want to see happen so that better outcomes for carers are achieved. Therefore, the Scottish Government's reforming agenda based on key principles in the Christie Report³ needs to go even further.

¹ Data from 2007-08 Scottish Household Survey. The 2011 Census figure for the number of carers is lower due to differences in methodology for collection of the data

² The 2001 Census identified over 16,000 young carers. The 2011 Census has yet to release data on the numbers of carers broken down by age. A PRTC study estimates there to be 100,000 young carers

³ Commission on the Future Delivery of Public Services
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/352649/0118638.pdf>

Well-crafted legislation will make a big difference to the ease of implementation on the ground. The current rights for carers in law can be modernised, consolidated and updated with a better focus on local authority relationships with other organisations to achieve these rights.

We propose that there are new rights too.

The Scottish Government will consult on removing the limitations of current law so that carers have access to assessment in a similar way to people who use services. We see the benefit in whole-family assessment in some circumstances.

There is a need to prevent or delay carers' needs from increasing or from developing in the first place. Likewise, there is benefit in achieving greater consistency in the way carers are treated and in the support they receive. Building on the power in the self-directed support legislation we will consult on introducing a duty to support carers according to an eligibility framework. Carers can benefit from access to timely, personalised, accessible and comprehensive information and advice and we will consult on legislative provisions to facilitate this.

Carers need to be more involved in decisions about the planning and provision of services for cared-for persons and about support for themselves. This is especially important given their role as providers of services who save the health and social care system in Scotland over an estimated £10 billion each year⁴. We will consult on how we can reinforce that carers are equal partners.

We will consult on how to improve support to young carers taking into account the measures within the Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill.

We will consult on other provisions to support carers which would help achieve better outcomes.

Altogether, a package of measures aimed at improving both assessment and support for carers will:

- improve carers' health and wellbeing;
- sustain the caring role;
- enable carers to have a life alongside caring;
- assist carers to remain in or return to work;
- enable access to community support networks; and
- prevent or delay hospital or residential care admissions for cared-for persons.

⁴ <http://www.carersuk.org/professionals/resources/research-library/item/2123-valuing-carers-2011>

Care 21

It is now eight years since the launch of the landmark Care 21 Report⁵ which guided the Scottish Government's approach to supporting Scotland's carers. Many of the forward-thinking recommendations about carers as equal partners, training for health and social care staff and ensuring a focus on the health and wellbeing of carers were pursued.

Caring Together and Getting it Right for Young Carers

However, we had to take stock again as it was apparent that more needed to be done. In 2010 we published, with COSLA, a comprehensive Strategy for carers and young carers, *Caring Together and Getting it Right for Young Carers*⁶. This Strategy has a five year lifespan until 2015.

The Strategy has nine key strands which are important to supporting adult carers to be able to care in good health and to have a life outside of caring. These are:

- identification;
- carers assessments;
- information and advice;
- health and wellbeing;
- support (including short breaks, advocacy, telecare and training);
- employment and skills and financial inclusion;
- rights;
- equalities; and
- carers as equal partners.

There is a similar approach with regard to young carers although the emphasis is on maintaining a childhood.

The Scottish Government is encouraged by the progress which has been made over the last few years in supporting carers and young carers.

Local authorities, with partners, are implementing local carers strategies, many based on the key principles in the national Strategy. Using Carer Information Strategy funding of almost £29 million since 2008, Health Boards are working with partners to identify and support carers and young carers. The voluntary sector, including national organisations and smaller community-based bodies, is supporting carers and young carers in many different ways. The voluntary sector in particular has a strong emphasis on providing preventative support to sustain carers and to help avert crisis. Since its launch in 2010, the voluntary sector Short Breaks Fund of

⁵ Care 21: The Future of Unpaid Care in Scotland
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/02/28094157/1>

⁶ *Caring Together and Getting it Right for Young Carers*
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/07/23153304/0>
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/319441/0102105.pdf>

over £13 million has helped support over 15,000 carers, cared-for persons and young carers to enjoy flexible, person-centred and fun breaks.

In May of this year the Scottish Government with COSLA published a report on progress with implementing both *Caring Together* and *Getting it Right for Young Carers*⁷. This report illustrates progress with national initiatives as well as locally and provides some very good examples of local initiatives and developments.

Manifesto commitments

There are also ten Manifesto commitments in support of carers and young carers. This includes the commitment that at least 20% of the Reshaping Care for Older People Programme Change Fund, or almost £50 million over three years to 2015, is dedicated to supporting carers of older people. The complete list of Manifesto commitments is attached.

Other strategies

There is a wide range of initiatives in other strategies and developments to support carers. These include Scotland's National Dementia Strategy⁸, the Mental Health Strategy for Scotland,⁹ the Learning Disabilities Strategy, *The Keys to Life – Improving Quality of Life for People with Learning Disabilities*¹⁰, The Scottish Strategy for Autism¹¹ and *See Hear: A Strategic Framework for Meeting the Needs of People with a Sensory Impairment*¹² which all have recommendations to support carers. Likewise, initiatives to support disabled children, people with many long-term conditions and at end-of-life all recognise the role of carers. Some of the initiatives in the strategies which support carers include:

- the guarantee that everyone diagnosed with dementia from April 2013 will receive a minimum of one year of dedicated post-diagnostic support. This will help carers of people with dementia to adjust to a diagnosis;
- increasing the involvement of carers and families in policy development and service delivery in relation to mental health; and
- improving the availability of short breaks for people with learning disabilities and their families and carers to provide opportunities to develop skills and confidence.

⁷ Progress Report on Implementation and Related Developments to Support Carers and Young Carers
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/05/8702>

⁸ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/Services/Mental-Health/Dementia>

⁹ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/08/9714>

¹⁰ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/06/1123>

¹¹ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/11/01120340/0>

¹² <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/04/2067>

Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013

The 2013 Act¹³ builds on the Self-directed Support Strategy¹⁴ to give individuals greater choice and control over their support. The aim is also to ensure that services and support become more flexible and responsive to people's needs. When the Act comes into force next year it will require councils to offer four choices to individuals on how they will get their social care. Moreover, the Act also gives a discretionary power to local authorities to provide support to adult carers following a carer's assessment and if the local authority decides that the carer has needs which could be met by the provision of support. Young carers too can also be provided with support by similar means.

The Scottish Government has also consulted on draft regulations to accompany the 2013 Act about the waiving of charges for support to carers¹⁵. We are considering the consultation responses before the regulations are laid before Parliament.

Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Bill

The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Bill¹⁶ has been introduced into Parliament.

The Bill provides the framework which will support improvement of the quality and consistency of health and social care services through the integration of health and social care in Scotland. Ministers intend to use the framework to integrate adult health and social care services as a minimum, and for statutory partners to decide locally whether to include other functions in their integrated arrangements.

The policy ambition for integrating health and social care services is to improve the quality and consistency of services for patients, carers, service users and their families; to provide seamless, joined-up quality health and social care services in order to care for people in their homes or a homely setting where it is safe to do so; and to ensure resources are used effectively and efficiently to deliver services that meet the increasing number of people with longer term and often complex needs, many of whom are older.

Joined-up, seamless, high-quality, appropriate and consistent services for cared-for persons will help carers. This is because much of the effort and challenge for carers now is about them using up their valuable energy and time to make the joins themselves in order to ensure the best possible care for the people they are caring for.

The work on joint strategic commissioning plans encourages the full involvement of carers. The Bill will enable, through secondary legislation, the involvement of carers in all aspects of the integrated arrangements for health and social care.

¹³ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2013/1/contents/enacted>

¹⁴ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/11/05120810/0>

¹⁵ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/04/8493/0>

¹⁶ <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/help/63845.aspx>

Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill¹⁷ is now being considered in Parliament. The aim of the Bill is to put children and young people at the heart of planning and delivery of services and to ensure that their rights are respected and upheld. Amongst other things the Bill aims to improve the way that services support children and families by promoting co-operation between services, with the child at the centre. This provides a legislative basis for Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC).

The requirement for local authorities with Health Boards to prepare, implement and report on children's services plans; the named person service; and the requirement to produce a child's plan if the child has a wellbeing need, which can only be met by a targeted intervention, will benefit all children including disabled and sick children and their parent-carers. The provisions will also benefit young carers if they have a wellbeing need.

¹⁷ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/legislation>

Manifesto Commitments 2011

Annual Carers Parliament: carers themselves are to have a more direct voice in the decision-making processes. The Carers Parliament will allow carers to raise the issues that impact most on their lives with MSPs and Scottish Government Ministers.

Employers Kitemark: create a new Caring for Carers Employers Kite-mark. This will recognise those employers who offer the best support to carers, allowing them the flexibility they often need to deliver care at home.

Energy Assistance Package: extend the EAP to people on carer's allowance.

Short breaks: continue to fund short breaks – provide £3 million over the next four years.

10,000 respite weeks: funding to maintain commitment to an extra 10,000 weeks respite provision per year.

Carer Information Strategies: will continue with £5 million investment each year in the CIS delivered through the NHS. This provides much needed support to local carer centres and training for carers.

20% Change Fund: want to see the third sector and carers play a key role as partners in the process given their important role in the lives of those cared for. To that end we will ensure that from 2012-13 onwards at least 20% of the Change Fund spend is dedicated to supporting carers to continue to care.

Carers as partners in the health service: will work to make sure that unpaid carers are treated as partners in the health service, the treatment for those cared for can and will be improved when the knowledge and experience of their carers is fully taken into account.

Education Maintenance Allowance: will work to ensure the EMA takes account of the needs of young carers, with more flexibility to recognise the particular pressures that some youngsters face balancing school and caring responsibilities.

Young carers in schools: will work to ensure that the particular circumstances of young carers are better recognised in our schools.

All of the commitments have been met or are in progress.



**The Scottish
Government**
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

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