

East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership

What does it mean for me - the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016?

When does the Carers Act come into effect?

The Carers Act comes into effect on 1st April 2018.

What's new about the Carers Act 2016?

The Carers Act brings in new rights for carers and new duties and powers on responsible authorities.

What are the new duties that the Carers Act brings in?

These are:

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| 1 | Duty to prepare Adult Carer Support Plans | The Adult Carer Support Plan (ACSP) is based on a conversation about personal outcomes for carers. ACSP should identify any support that should be provided to an adult carer to meet eligible needs. All newly identified adult carers have a right to an ACSP from 1 st April 2018 – all existing identified carers by 31 st March 2021. |
| 2 | Duty to prepare Young Carer Statement | A Young Carer Statement (YCS) identifies a young carer's personal outcomes and need for support. A YCS should highlight any support a young carer requires to meet eligible needs. All newly identified young carers have a right to a YCS and all currently identified young carers by 31 st March 2019. |
| 3 | Duty to set local eligibility criteria | Local eligibility criteria is a framework used to identify whether an adult or young carer should receive support from East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership (EAHSCP) for identified needs that can't be met by support for the cared-for person or universal, mainstream supports. This is termed 'outstanding need' and carer support for this is offered through one of the four self-directed support (SDS) options. |
| 4 | Duty to provide support | EAHSCP is keen to ensure that carers get the right support to continue to have a life alongside caring. Carers who are not eligible for SDS will still receive help and can access services such as information and advice from EAHSCP, East Ayrshire Carers Centre and other local organisations. Carers may also be offered support such as breaks from caring. |

5	Duty to involve carers in carer services	EAHSCP has a duty to consult with carers in planning and delivering carer support. This includes carer involvement in hospital discharge planning for the cared-for person. This duty applies at strategic and individual level.
6	Duty to prepare local carer strategy	EAHSCP has worked with carer peer mentors to prepare a local carer strategy, develop our carer support plans and local eligibility criteria.
7	Information and Advice service for carers	Advice and information, including income maximisation support, for carers is provided by East Ayrshire Carers Centre and through the My East Ayrshire website. East Ayrshire Advocacy Service also supports carers as do partner organisations.
8	Carer's Charter	Scottish Ministers are required to prepare a Carers' Charter related to the rights of carers.

What will be different for me from 1st April 2018?

We will be in a very good position in relation to implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016.

We are compliant with the Act as stands in how we prepare Carer Support Plans and have adopted this terminology for a number of years.

From 1st April 2018 we can carry on how we approach identification, information, advice and support for carers.

There are some changes linked to the duties described above. We are working with the Scottish Government, Scottish Social Services Council and other partners to implement a revised learning and development programme related to the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 and this will be rolled out from May 2018. The programme will build on the Equal Partners in Care programme.

What about 'waiving of charges' and 'replacement care'?

People will continue to get the right support at the right time. But there are some issues with the implementation of the act that we need to keep a close eye on.

COSLA, Social Work Scotland and the Scottish Government have agreed to keep National Guidance on the implementation of the Act under review.

We will link closely with local carers, partners across Scotland to ensure that we implement the Act in accordance with policy intentions.

We are currently considering how we will change our charging policy and will keep you up to date with developments.

We will continue to communicate across the workforce through cascade of information, briefings and team toolbox talks to keep everyone abreast of any changes or developments.

Who should I contact if I have any queries?

Further Local Guidance, briefings will be available in due course. In the first instance please contact **Fiona Robson or Fiona Pirrie at East Ayrshire Carers Centre on 01563571533 Or Thinking Differently Team on 01563503354.**

The leaflet 'Let's talk about you and your caring role' is a good reference point:
<http://eacintranet/Resources/pdf/s/SDS/Leaflets/Lets-Talk-About---You-and-your-caring-role.pdf>

Web-based information is available through the following links:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Health/Support-Social-Care/Unpaid-Carers>