



DUNDEE CARERS PARTNERSHIP INFORMATION FACTSHEET No. 2

Your Rights as a Carer

The Carers (Scotland) Act comes into force from 1st April 2018. The legislation extends the rights of adult and young carers in Scotland, to ensure that unpaid carers are better supported on a more consistent basis so that they can continue to care, if they wish, whilst maintaining good health and have a life alongside caring.

What does the Carers Act do for Carers?

From the 1st of April, 2018, the Carers Act introduces a number of new rights for carers.

The right to Adult Carer Support Plans, and Young Carer Statements

If you provide unpaid care and you have needs arising as a result of the care you are providing, you have a legal right to either an Adult Carer Support Plan, if you are 18 years old, or a Young Carer Statement, if you are under 18 years old or 18 but still a pupil at school.

These will replace current Carers Assessments, and will be available to all carers upon request. It is an opportunity for carers to have a discussion about the caring role and have a say in planning their own needs, personal outcomes, and support.

An Adult Carer Support Plan will help identify carers' personal outcomes which matter to the carer in order to carry out their caring responsibilities, as well as any other needs a carer may have.

A Young Carer Statement is a plan that sets out information about the young carer's circumstances and caring role. The plan will set out a young carer's personal outcomes which matter to the young carer in order to continue to provide care, where that is appropriate, and have a life alongside caring. It will set out the needs a young carer may have and the support available to meet the carer's needs.



The right to support to meet any eligible needs

Local Authorities must develop a local eligibility criteria framework, this is a framework used to identify who is eligible for support. Carers whose needs for support reach the eligibility threshold are entitled to support and will have a support plan based on the carer's identified needs and personal outcomes.

If you are eligible for support you will be offered the option of having support arranged on their behalf or receiving a direct payment to arrange their own support. Carers may also be offered other supports such as breaks from their caring role.

Support will be available for all Carers, including those who meet the eligibility threshold, and those who do not. Carers will be able to access a wide variety of support, information and advice with or without having an Adult Carer Support Plan or Young Carers Statement.

If a carer's identified needs do not meet the local eligibility criteria, help and support will still be provided through existing local carer services and other supports available in the local community.

The right to be involved in services

Carers and carer organisations must be involved in the planning, shaping, delivery and review of services.

The right to be involved in the hospital discharge process for the cared-for person

Health Boards will be required to ensure unpaid carers are involved in hospital discharge planning, and take into account carers' views in making decisions relating to hospital discharge for the person they care for.

Information and advice for carers

There is a duty on the local authority to have access for carers to information and advice services, ensuring this is accessible for carers. The local authority will publish a Short Breaks Statement with information about short breaks services available for local carers. In addition, the Scottish Government are preparing a Carers' Charter setting out the rights of carers in the Act.

You can learn more about the draft charter on the Scottish Government website [here](#).



Local Carers Charterⁱ

In Dundee, we have developed a Carers Charters which provides three pledges to Carers living in Dundee so that Carers rights are promoted. You can view the Charter and the list of organisations who have signed up to the Charter at <https://www.dundeehscp.com/service-information>.

What will we do?

As a carer, you can expect that we will:

- **Identify, acknowledge, and value carers:** You will be identified, feel respected, and recognised in your caring role.
- **Support Carers:** Organisations will work in partnership to support you to live a fulfilled life.
- **Involve Carers:** You will have opportunities and support to be involved.

Any public sector, private business or voluntary body wishing to sign up to the Dundee Carers Charter should contact joyce.barclay@dundeecity.gov.uk asking for more details. Additional posters for display on your premises are also available.

ⁱ Section 36 of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 requires Scottish Ministers to prepare and publish a Carers' Charter rights of carers in or under the Act. This is currently under development.