



ANGUS HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD – 29 AUGUST 2018
THE CARERS (SCOTLAND) ACT 2016 IMPLEMENTATION
REPORT BY VICKY IRONS, CHIEF OFFICER

ABSTRACT

The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 has introduced significant changes to the way in which unpaid carers are supported across Scotland. This report provides an update on local progress and seeks agreement to transitional arrangements to support implementation.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board:-

- (i) notes this progress update on implications for Angus Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016;
- (ii) approves the proposals for managing transition to the new adult care support plan and local eligibility criteria for carers already known to AHSCP.

2. BACKGROUND

The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 ('The Act') commenced on 1 April 2018. It encourages local authorities to take a preventative and collaborative approach to supporting unpaid carers and outlines the nature of further intervention e.g. the introduction of national eligibility criteria, if this approach is judged to be undermined. The Act recognises the great value of the unpaid care that is provided across Scotland and the impact that this provision can have on individuals with a caring role. It aims to ensure that, through early intervention, carers are better and more consistently supported, are able to continue to care if they are willing and able to, can do so in good health and wellbeing, and are allowed to have a life alongside their caring role.

Implementation work is co-ordinated through the Carers Planning & Development Group which includes representatives from Angus Council's People Directorate to ensure that the regulations relating to young carers are implemented.

As previously reported, the functions delegated to the Integration Joint Board by Scottish Ministers include the duties outlined in Table 1. The Act was implemented on 1 April this year. Functions which have additional timescales for implementation are indicated in the table below. In addition, existing adult carers already in receipt of support must be offered an ACSP when there is a material change in their circumstances, at the request of the carer, and in any case by 31 March 2021.

Section	Delegated duty	Timescale
Section 6	Duty to prepare an adult carer support plan	1 April 2018
Section 21	Duty to set local eligibility criteria	31 March 2019
Section 24	Duty to provide support when identified needs meet the local eligibility criteria	1 April 2018
Section 25	Duty to consider whether any support provided should take the form of or include, a break from caring	1 April 2018
Section 28	Duty to involve carers before hospital discharge	1 April 2018
Sections 29 & 30	Duty to involve and take account of the views of carers in decision-making and support planning for the service users they care for	1 April 2018
Section 31	Duty to prepare a local carer strategy;	1 April 2019
Section 34	Duty to maintain or ensure the maintenance of an information and advice service for carers	1 April 2018
Section 35	Duty to prepare and publish a short break services statement	31 December 2018

3. CURRENT POSITION

The current position of this work and any requirement for approval from the Integration Joint Board is outlined below:

- a) Local Eligibility Criteria applicable to both adult and young carers are now agreed and will drive a transparent and consistent approach to the assessment of eligibility in Angus (ref. Report No IJB 20/18). The criteria will be introduced formally when the new adult carer support plan becomes operational on 1 September 2018 and reviewed before March 2021.
- b) A draft adult carer support plan (ACSP) has been developed which sets out a carer's personal outcomes, identified needs and the support to be provided to meet these needs. It is an outcome-focused and strengths-based assessment and was produced in consultation with carers, their representative bodies, AHSCP managers and practitioners. It will replace previous assessment documents and ensure a more streamlined and consistent approach to supporting carers across AHSCP and determining whether a carer has eligible needs under the legislation (see ACSP – Appendix 1).

Adult Services and Angus Carers Centre will work in partnership to support carers and the ACSP will be used to determine the most appropriate lead agency for the carer. A privacy notice has been developed to support information-sharing where it is appropriate in line with General Data Protection Regulation requirements.

Work continues to develop an equivalent process for young carers via introduction of the Young Carer Statement (YCS) for those who are under eighteen, or over eighteen but still at school. AHSCP is required to work with Angus Council Children and Learning Committee to put plans in place for young carers who are over eighteen but still at school or those transitioning into Adult Carers Support. The YCS will continue to apply until there is an ACSP in place.

- c) The Angus Carers' strategy will be developed through the Carers Planning & Development Group and be published by the end of March 2019. It will capture implementation of the Act, broader issues facing local carers, and the AHSCP's approach to supporting this agenda. The draft strategy will be presented to IJB for approval in the new year.
- d) An information and advice service for carers is currently commissioned from Angus Carers Centre. A review of their Service Level Agreement will identify the areas which the service currently covers and identify gaps in provision in relation to the legislation.
- e) A good practice template has been issued for the short breaks services statement and will be used as the basis for local work. The Angus statement will be published by the end of the year.

The Carers Planning and Development Group will continue to co-ordinate local partnership working to support implementation which reflects the legislation, regulation and guidance, and local learning. In doing so, the vital contribution made by unpaid carers in Angus can be supported and sustained as well as ensuring that Angus meets its statutory requirements to involve carers in services and service planning.

4. PROPOSALS

The Adult Carer Support Plan (ACSP) and local eligibility criteria will be implemented from 1 September 2018 for new carers and introduced for carers already known to AHSCP at the time of their next planned review or a significant change in their circumstances (see ACSP Implementation Plan – Appendix 2).

The Integration Joint Board is asked to consider the following proposal to support carers already known to AHSCP in transitioning to the ACSP/ local eligibility criteria:

Between September 2018 and February 2019 the impact of the transition will be monitored closely and decision-making on a case by case basis encouraged. While eligibility criteria will enable decision-making regarding support, their use is not an exact science. The professional judgement of practitioners, taking into account the views of the carer, should be the basis of decision-making in relation to any change in the provision of resources. To support the process:-

- Feedback will be gathered from practitioners via joint (AHSCP and Angus Carers Centre) locality forums on any issues identified with the ACSP, local eligibility criteria and access to resources
- Feedback will be gathered from carers via locality-based learning networks and Angus Carers Voice Network
- Practitioners will be asked to fill in a feedback/monitoring form for each ACSP completed
- A Learning & Development Group comprising AHSCP managers and practitioners, carers and Angus Carers Centre will meet monthly to review practice and monitoring forms, discuss issues raised, sample ACSPs and disseminate learning
- The Learning & Development Group will report to the IJB after six months on the overall findings of the roll-out and any changes to be made to the process as a result

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

An estimate of the potential cost impact of the Carers Act in 2018/19 and beyond was reflected in the IJB's financial plan (2018/19 to 2020/21) (report 25/18). This estimate of potential cost in the first year was reflected in the 2018/19 budget settlement with Angus Council (report 22/18). However, in terms of confirming the net cost of implementing the Act in 2018/19 and beyond, this has still to be fully determined. This reflects the developing nature of guidance, the complexity in estimating uptake over time and the need to clarify support arrangements. It is anticipated that a more complete estimate of 2018/19 and beyond costs will be developed by the Carers Planning and Development Group and will be reflected in the next iteration of the IJB's financial planning. However future funding support remains unclear.

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List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Adult Carer Support Plan (ACSP)

Appendix 2 – ACSP Implementation Plan