

Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 Briefing

The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 was implemented in April 2018 and placed new duties on all Scottish local authorities and health and social care partnerships. The act applies to both adult and young carers and aims to support carers' health and wellbeing, to make caring more sustainable.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic we delayed the intended March 2020 bulletin, however as we adjust to a new normal, we thought it would be good to give an update on how we've been supporting carers during this difficult time. Whilst some scheduled work has had to change or pause, we have continued to support carers whilst adhering to government guidelines and restrictions. We continue to carry out our duties under the Carers Act and are making progress with other actions identified in the Aberdeenshire Adult Carer and Young Carer Strategies (<http://publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/dataset/local-carer-strategies>)

Information regarding Coronavirus continues to be regularly updated, For latest information and advice please refer to NHS Inform (Scotland) www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus

Quarriers Aberdeenshire Carer Support Service

The impact of Coronavirus has been particularly difficult for unpaid carers with many having new or increased caring roles, some experiencing reduction in the support they received due to suspension of respite and day services as well as closure of services and facilities that were accessed by the person they care for to allow them a break from their caring role.

Throughout this time, Quarriers staff have continued to keep in contact with unpaid carers registered with them and a member of staff was assigned to provide support to unpaid carers who are suffering from anxiety related to the pandemic. Despite the change in legislation relaxing our legal duty, Adult Carer Support Plans (ACSP) and Young Carer Statements (YCS) are still being progressed where appropriate and staff have continued to receive Creative Break applications which have been fulfilled with alternative types of breaks for carers, in line with the restrictions such as creative packs and laptops. Quarriers has also accessed funding to allow purchase of tablets and laptops for carers who would benefit from access to these for various uses to make their caring role more manageable e.g. attending online medical appointments, accessing online support groups, information and online grocery shopping.

Unpaid carers can access Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) via Quarriers if they are unable to access this in another way. Quarriers has also produced extra newsletters throughout the pandemic to keep carers informed and connected.

Carer Practitioners (employed by Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership), who support carers in receipt of their own SDS budget, have been making contact with them to check in and ensure that they have the support needed to continue their caring roles. These discussions have, in some cases, resulted in temporary changes to how carers use their budgets to support them to meet their outcomes where current restrictions affect this, in line with the Scottish Government/COSLA Guidance May 2020 relating to flexibility of use of Option 1 & 2 of Self Directed Support. An example of this is carers using budget previously used for holistic treatments for relaxation to purchase items to achieve the same outcome at home.

Aberdeenshire Carer Support Services – Contract Award

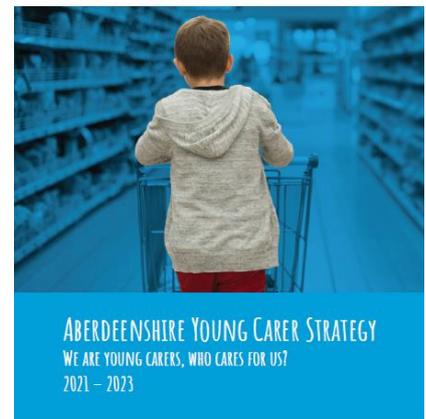
The Adult Carer and Young Carer Support Service went to tender at the end of 2019 as the previous contracts came to an end. Quarriers was successful in their bid to provide the Aberdeenshire Carer Service for Adults and Young Carers from April 2020 and will be the provider for the next four years.

Quarriers Aberdeenshire Carer Support Service offer advice, information and support to complete an ACSP or YCS. For information and advice for adult and young carers please contact Quarriers, Tel: **01467 538700** or Email: aberdeenshircarers@quarriers.org.uk

Draft Aberdeenshire Young Carer Strategy 2021 – 2023

The consultation is now open on the Draft Aberdeenshire Young Carer Strategy 2021 - 2023. This strategy is for all Aberdeenshire young carers up to the age of 18 years old and has been developed through discussions with young carers to gather their views and reflect the opinions of young carers across Aberdeenshire, and other key partners in social work, education, health and the third sector.

We encourage young carers and as many people as possible to read our draft Young Carer Strategy 2021 - 2023 and complete the survey to give their views. If you have any queries, please contact the Carer Support Team via email to carersupport@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or telephone 01467 536677. The survey will close on 18th October 2020 at 23:45.



The Draft Aberdeenshire Young Carer Strategy 2021 – 2023 can be viewed here: <https://tinyurl.com/yylujnax> and the survey can be accessed here: <http://tiny.cc/2xuxsz>

Carers' Rights Day, 26th November 2020 – *Save the Date*

As with so many other things, Carers' Rights Day will be different this year. Instead of an event for Aberdeenshire carers to attend in person, we are co-hosting a virtual information event with Quarriers - more information will follow shortly from Quarriers.

Young Carer Awareness

We have been working on a new range of young carer materials, with input from young carers at Mackie Academy and Quarriers Young Carer Focus Group to develop designs with Foyer Graphics (part of the Foyer Enterprise Group). The chosen vibrant design has been used in new leaflets and posters with the aim to increase awareness of young carers in schools and the wider community. The new literature will be launched in November.

We would like to thank all the young carers involved with the animations and literature design review which you will see glimpses of in the current Young Carer Strategy Draft out for consultation.

Carer Representatives on the IJB

Two carer representatives were appointed at the Integration Joint Board (IJB) in February 2020. Fiona Culbert and George Mitchell provide carer representation at the IJB, which is a joint board of Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian. The IJB oversees the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) and manage adult Social Care and Health Service in Aberdeenshire. To contact the Carer Representatives email ijbstakeholderreps@gmail.com, please note this is a joint mailbox for all IJB stakeholder members and will be accessed by multiple people and not just the Carer Representatives.

Short Breaks Services Statement (SBSS) Update

The Aberdeenshire Short Breaks Services Statement was updated as part of annual review in March 2020 and can be viewed within the Aberdeenshire Carer Support Webpage: www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/community-care/caring-for-others/support-for-carers/

Carer Support Information

Work continues on local carer support literature including the Waiving of Charges Guidance and Information Pack. Please contact us if you have any feedback or suggestions for any adult or young carer support information content or distribution, by emailing: carersupport@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Carer Support Webpages

Aberdeenshire Council's [Caring for Others](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/caring-for-others) webpage www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/carersupport contains useful links to other carer support webpages and to documents such as Local Carer Strategies, Eligibility Criteria, SBSS, SVQ application form and will soon host an electronic version of the Aberdeenshire Carer Information Pack.

Next Briefing

The next Carers Act Briefing will be circulated internally by email in March 2021. It will also be added to [Quarriers](#), [PAMIS \(Promoting a more inclusive society\)](#) and [Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action \(AVA\)](#)'s newsletters. The current briefing will be available on the Aberdeenshire Council website carer pages: www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/community-care/caring-for-others/carers-rights-and-legislation/ Previous editions are available on request by emailing carersupport@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

If you have any queries or would like to find out what support is available to you as a carer in Aberdeenshire, please email us: carersupport@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Carers Strategy Team

09 October 2020