

## **ANALYSIS OF ADULT CARER SUPPORT PLANS AND YOUNG CARER STATEMENTS 2019/2020 AND 2020/2021.**

The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 provides a duty on local authorities to prepare an Adult Carer Support Plan (ACSP) (Section 6) or young carer statement (YCS) (Section 12) for anyone they identify as a carer, or for any carer who requests one.

However, at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic the Coronavirus Act 2020 (temporary legislation) was introduced, which allowed local authorities to ease some assessment duties. Section 16 of the Act allowed for temporary relaxation of local authorities duties in relation to preparation of adult carer support plans/young carer statements under the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016.

Carers Trust Scotland are interested on the impact this has had on the delivery of ACSPs, YCSs and the support being provided to unpaid carers.

In May 2021, Carers Trust Scotland sent out a Freedom of Information Request to all local authority areas in Scotland. They were asked to report on various aspects of ACSPs and YCSs in the year 2019/20 and 2020/21.

### **Summary Findings:**

Responses were received from 29 local authorities in total; 23 local authorities provided responses to some of the questions; 6 local authorities provided responses to all of the questions.

- In all local authorities that provided data, less ACSPs and YCSs were completed in 2020/21 than in 2019/20.
- In all local authorities that provided data, more carers who met local eligibility criteria were supported in 2019/2020 than in 2020/21.
- A lack of data provided on waiting lists and timescales for the completion of ACSPs and YCSs, makes it difficult to provide a Scotland wide picture.

There are other sources of data available that may provide answers to the information that was not provided. For clarity however, the following data and analysis is based only on the local authority responses to the Freedom of Information request. Local authorities hold the statutory duty to provide ACSP and YCSs.

### **Who is responsible for the completion of the ACSP and YCS**

The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 gave unpaid carers and young carers in Scotland the right to an ACSP, and a YCS respectively. The delivery of these plans is decided by the local authority, based on how the legislation has been implemented in that area. As such, the service responsible for delivery is different across Scotland's local authorities. The following table details services responsible for ACSP and YCS in each local authority.

Some information was completed by Carers Trust Scotland, to allow readers to locate where they can access an ACSP or YCS. This is indicated with an Asterix.



<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Responsibility for ACSP</b>	<b>Responsibility for YCS</b>
Aberdeen City Council	Social work - support services	Referee (education, health, social work) and Barnardo's Young Carers Referee (education, health, social work) and Barnardo's Young Carers Service
Aberdeenshire Council	Quarriers North East Services	Quarriers North East Services
Angus Council	Health and Social Care Partnership, Adult Services and Angus Carers Centre share responsibility for undertaking ACSPs	Education and Lifelong Learning
Argyll and Bute Council	The Local Carers Centres	The Local Carers Centres/ Youth Service
Edinburgh (City of) Council	Integrated Carer Support Team, Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership	Broomhouse t/a SPACE, Edinburgh Young Carers and Capital Carers
Clackmannanshire Council	Local Carers Centre*	Local Carers Centre*
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles)	Assessment and Care Management	Children and Families Social Work
Dumfries and Galloway Council	Local Carers Centre*	Local Carers Centre*
Dundee City Council	All front line local authority staff	Children and Families Service (education and social work)
East Ayrshire Council	East Ayrshire Carers Centre	No response provided by local authority
East Dunbartonshire Council	Adult and Older People Social Work Teams, NHS Community teams and relevant third sector services	Children and Families Social Work, NHS and Health and Social Care Partnership teams
East Lothian Council	Carers of East Lothian and East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership	East Lothian Young Carers and Bridges Project
East Renfrewshire Council	East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership , East Renfrewshire Carers Centre	East Renfrewshire Council Education Department, East Renfrewshire Carers Centre
Falkirk Council	Carers Centre	Carers Centre
Fife Council	All Adults and Older People teams, Care at Home** Teams and Occupational Therapy Teams	No response provided by local authority

\*This information was completed by Carers Trust Scotland, informed by the local carers centre.

\*\*Abbreviation provided was CAH, interpreted to mean Care at Home.

Glasgow City Council	Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership, Social Work Services and commissioned carer services	Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership, Social Work Services and commissioned carer services
Inverclyde Council	Inverclyde Carers Centre and Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership	Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership
Midlothian Council	Vocal Midlothian, Midlothian Council Adult Social Work	Schools, Midlothian Young Carers, social work
North Ayrshire Council	The Health and Social Care Partnership's Assessment and Care Management Teams	Headteachers within Primary Schools and Pastoral Staff
North Lanarkshire Council	Lanarkshire Carers	Action for Children
Orkney Islands Council	Social Work services	Social Work services
Perth and Kinross Council	Adult Social work, Perth and Kinross Council Education and Children's Services, Perth and Kinross Association of Voluntary Service	Perth and Kinross Association of Voluntary Service – Young Carer Service, Education and Children's Young Carer Worker, Children and Disability Team
Renfrewshire Council	Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership and Renfrewshire Carers Centre	Young Carer Resource Worker employed by Renfrewshire Children's Services or by staff at Renfrewshire Carers Centre
Scottish Borders Council	Borders Carers Centre	Chimes (Action for Children)
Shetland Islands Council	Adult Social work	Schools and Social Work
South Ayrshire Council	All Community Care Area Teams	No response provided by local authority
South Lanarkshire Council	Local Carers Centre*	Action For Children and Social Work Resources
Stirling Council	Stirling Council Adult social care and Stirling Carers Centre	Stirling Young Carers Service
The Highland Council	Local Carers Centre*	Local Carers Centre*
The Moray Council	Quarriers Carer Support Service	Quarriers Carer Support Service
West Dunbartonshire Council	Carers of West Dunbartonshire and all adult health and care services	No response provided by local authority
West Lothian Council	Social Work Services	Social Policy and Education



## Total Numbers of ACSP and YCS completed in financial years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021

### Adult Carer Support Plans

Local authorities were asked:

*Exact number of ACSPs that have been completed in financial year 2019/2020 and in 2020/2021*



In 21 local authorities, the number of ACSPs completed in 2020/21, was less than the number in 2019/2020. In only three local authorities were there more ACSPs completed in 2020/21 than in 2019/20. Seven local authorities did not provide data for either year, and one local authority only provided data for one year.

The greatest decline in ACSPs being delivered in one area was 66%; while the smallest decline was 2%. However, it is important to note that the number of ASCPs being delivered across local authorities in 2019/20 varied greatly. The highest number completed in one local authority was 1,344; while the lowest was 15.

Across Scotland, from those local authorities that responded, 1,690 less ACSPs were completed in 2020/21 than in 2019/20, a decline of 21%.

Totals from all 24 local authorities that responded	
Exact number of ACSPs that have been completed in financial year 2019/2020.	Exact number of ACSPs that have been completed in financial year 2020/2021.
7,788	6,098

### Young Carer Statements

Local authorities were asked:

*Exact number of YCSs that have been completed in financial year 2019/2020 and in 2020/21 respectively*



In 18 local authorities, the number of YCSs completed in 2020/21 was less than the number completed in 2019/2020. In only two local authorities were there more YCSs completed in 2020/21 than in 2019/20. Three local authorities only provided data for one of the requested years; eight local authorities did not provide data for either year.

The greatest decline in YCSs being delivered in one area was 98%; while the least decline was 0.9%. However, it is important to note that the number of YCSs being delivered across local authorities in 2019/20 varied greatly. The highest number delivered in one local authority was 110, while the lowest was 2.

Across Scotland, from those local authorities that responded, 222 less YCSs were completed in 2020/21 than in 2019/20; a decline of 24%.

Totals from all 20 local authorities that responded	
Exact number of YCSs that have been completed in financial year 2019/2020	Exact number of YCSs that have been completed in financial year 2020/2021
914	692

## Total number of carers with ACSPs or YCSs eligible for support

### Adult Carer Support Plans

Local authorities were asked:

*Exact number of carers with completed ACSPs in financial year 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 respectively, that met local eligibility criteria for support.*



17 local authorities experienced a decrease in the number of carers with ACSPs that met local eligibility criteria. Only in three local authority areas was there an increase in the number of carers eligible for support; 11 local authority areas did not provide data, and one only provided data for one year.

The greatest decrease in the number of carers with ACSP that met local eligibility criteria in one area was 81%; while the least decline was 4%, seen in two local authorities.

Totals from all 20 local authorities that responded	
Exact number of carers with completed ACSPs in financial year 2019/2020 that met local eligibility criteria for support	Exact number of carers with completed ACSPs in financial year 2020/2021 that met local eligibility criteria for support
5,212	3,391

Across Scotland, from those local authorities that responded, there were 1,821 less carers meeting local eligibility criteria for support in 2020/2021 than in 2019/2020; a decline of 35%.

### Young Carer Statements

Local authorities were asked:

*Exact number of young carers with completed YCSs in financial year 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 respectively that met local eligibility criteria for support.*



In 13 local authorities, there was a decrease in the number of young carers with YCSs that met the local eligibility criteria for support. Only two local authorities saw an increase in the number of young carers eligible for support; the numbers remained the same in five areas. Eleven local authorities did not provide data, and one only provided data for one year.

Totals from all 20 local authorities that responded	
Exact number of young carers with completed YCSs in financial year 2019/2020 that met local eligibility criteria for support.	Exact number of young carers with completed YCSs in financial year 2020/2021 that met local eligibility criteria for support.
818	616

Across Scotland, from those local authorities that responded, there were 202 less young carers meeting local eligibility criteria for support in 2020/2021 than in 2019/2020; a drop of 25%.

## Waiting Lists

### Adult Carer Support Plans

Local authorities were asked:

*Confirm whether there was a waiting list for ACSPs in financial year 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 respectively, and what the average waiting time was.*



15 local authorities reported no waiting time and 15 local authorities did not provide this information. As only two local authorities provided comparable data for both years, it is not possible to ascertain an overview of waiting times for unpaid carers in Scotland. However, in the two local authorities that provided data, waiting times more than doubled from 2019/2020 to 2020/2021.

<b>Confirm whether there was a waiting list for a ACSP in financial year 2019/2020 and what was the average waiting time. (Weeks)</b>	<b>Confirm whether there was a waiting list for a ACSP in financial year 2020/2021 and what was the average waiting time. (Weeks)</b>
3.6	9.2
1.3	3.1

### Young Carer Statements

Local authorities were asked:

*Confirm whether there was a waiting list for YCS in financial year 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 respectively, and what the average waiting time was.*



12 local authorities reported no waiting time and 13 local authorities did not provide the information. Seven local authorities provided data. While this is not enough to give a clear picture of waiting lists for YCSs, it does show a mixed picture of waiting lists. In three areas, the waiting time doubled; in three the waiting time reduced; and in one area the waiting time was unchanged.

<b>Confirm whether there was a waiting list for a YCS in financial year 2019/2020 and what was the average waiting time. (Weeks)</b>	<b>Confirm whether there was a waiting list for a YCS in financial year 2020/2021 and what was the average waiting time. (Weeks)</b>
3	6
3	3
4	8
2.5	0
6	12
11	4
7.2	0



## Timescales

### Adult Carer Support Plans

Local authorities were asked:

*Average timescales from request to completion of ACSPs in financial year 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 respectively*

From the 17 local authorities that provided data, the average time scale as five weeks in 2019/2020, rising to six weeks in 2020/2021. However, the data provided does not allow Scotland wide average wait times. The table shows the change in timescales from 2019/20 to 2020/21.

<b>Timescale from request to completion in 2019/2020 to 2020/2021</b>	<b>Local authority</b>
Increased timescale	8
No change	2
Decreased timescale	7
Did not provide data	15

### Young Carer Statements

Local authorities were asked:

*Average timescales from request to completion of YCSs in financial year 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 respectively*

From the 18 local authorities that provided data, the average time scales in both financial years was seven weeks. However, it is not possible to draw Scotland wide averages from the data provided. The table shows the change in timescales from 2019/20 to 2020/21.

<b>Timescale from request to completion in 2019/2020 to 2020/2021</b>	<b>Local authority</b>
Increased timescale	5
No change	10
Decreased timescale	3
Did not provide data	14

## Conclusions

Although this data doesn't provide robust evidence of the full picture across Scotland, it does highlight that overall, the relaxation of duties on local authorities appears to have impacted the number of carers being supported across Scotland.

Carers Trust Scotland research found that the pandemic was a challenging time for both unpaid carers and carer services (**Carers Trust Scotland, 2021**). It is vital as we slowly emerge from pandemic, that unpaid carers get the support that they need and that their rights are upheld.

