Guidance on Supporting Young Carers in North Ayrshire
### Document Control

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<td><a href="http://www.nahscp.org/">http://www.nahscp.org/</a></td>
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| Related documents | **Carer (Scotland) Act 2016 Statutory Guidance** -  
Children (Scotland) Act 1995  
Getting it Right for Young Carers, The Young Carers Strategy for Scotland 2010 – 2015  
‘Getting it Right for Every Child’  
Scottish Government Guidance on Carer Advocacy  
Attendance in Scottish Schools, ‘Included, Engaged, Involved: Part 1’ |
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### Version Control

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| Author(s) | Kimberley Mroz – Manager  
Kerryanne Owens – Project Assistant |
| Review Date (Month & Year) | |
1. **Purpose**

This guidance has been developed in line with the new Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 (the Act). It is intended to provide staff with an overall understanding of new duties (See Appendix 1 for full list) and the approach to be adopted in identifying, working with and supporting young carers across North Ayrshire.

The overall intention of the Act is to ensure that young carers can be children and young people first and foremost and are protected from undertaking caring responsibilities or tasks that are inappropriate with regard to their age, maturity and impact on quality of life.

2. **Who is a Young Carer?**

North Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership (NAHSCP) and Education & Youth Employment (E&YE) recognise the significant contribution of young carers who support family and friends who need their help due to illness, disability, mental health, addiction issues or simply as the person they care for grows older.

Many young people do not recognise they are carers and see caring as just doing what anyone else would do in their situation. Some young carers do not even live with the person they care for and are often balancing education, work and family responsibilities at home.

The Act defines a young carer as;

> ‘a carer who is under 18 years old, or has attained the age of 18 years while a pupil at a school, and has, since attaining that age remained a pupil at that or another school.’

Where a young person with a caring role has reached the age of 16 years and left secondary education to pursue employment or higher education, they are still considered a young carer until the age of 18 years, and an adult carer support plan is requested/offerred and prepared.

3. **Identifying a Young Carer**

NAHSCP are working with E&YE and Unity (provide advice and support for all carers aged 8 years and older, in North Ayrshire) to involve young people and their families in carer awareness raising. Having proactive conversations in schools helps create a secure environment where young people feel comfortable enough to self-identify and disclose they are young carers, if they choose to.

Unity delivers carer awareness assemblies to all pupils from Primary 5 – Secondary 6. NAHSCP and E&YE provides relevant training to head teachers and pastoral staff to help identify, offer and prepare Young Carer Statements (YCS). The aim of the

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1 Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 as defined in Section 2 of the Act
YCS is to prevent young carers being identified by negative aspects of their attainment, attendance or behaviour such as:

- being late or missing days/weeks off school
- being tired, anxious, depressed or withdrawn
- problems socially or being isolated from peers/presenting as overly mature
- difficulty concentrating on work, not handing it in on time or producing a lower standard than able
- difficulty joining in clubs or unable to attend school trips
- showing physical problems
- showing signs of neglect, poor diet

The above may be indicators of a range of problems, not necessarily associated with a child having a caring role. However within the quality conversations staff already have with young people, we should add … “Are you helping to look after someone?”

Young carers themselves have a key role to play in raising awareness about the rewarding and demanding situations young carers face. Opportunities should be provided in schools for young carers to self-identify and present/discuss young carers matters with their peers through appropriate activities. This may include school assemblies, workshops, talks, lunch time drop – in sessions.

School staff can discuss any concerns with the head teacher or pastoral staff with responsibility for the young person, if the young person gives consent. Any concerns about a young person, who may be considered as an unidentified young carer, should be directed to the young person’s Named Person.

Information gained as a result of this process will be held securely by the Named Person. While schools will respect the right to privacy, good practice will establish if the family is in contact with a support service that can help reduce their reliance on support from the young person. Schools will only share information about the young carer and their family if agreement has been given.

In the event of any young carer, who is considered to be at risk of significant or critical harm, the statutory Child Protection Procedure should be followed.

4. Duty to Offer & Prepare Young Carer Statements (YCS)

Section 12 of the Act requires the responsible authority to offer and prepare a YCS on identification of a young carer. The YCS is a framework for young carers, who request or are offered, and accept the chance to complete their YCS. It helps to identify and recognise individual needs and the things that are important to each young carer. The Statement is a record, which they will receive a copy of, to own and share with any other person that the young carer wishes to.

The responsible authority differs according to the circumstances of the young carer:

- Where the young carer is a pre-school child (0 – 4), it is NHS Ayrshire & Arran or indeed the health board in which the child stays,
• Where the young carer is not pre-school (5 – 18 or 18 and still in secondary education) it is North Ayrshire Council’s responsibility or the authority in which the child resides.

North Ayrshire Council, as the responsible authority, have identified and delegated authority to the Named Person to support young carers to complete their YCS up to the levels of moderate risk/impact to the young carer. Where needs or outcomes are deemed to be substantial or critical the Named Person will liaise with local Social Work Service Access Teams (See Appendix 2) to identify the appropriate Lead Professional. (See Processes in Appendix 3).

If non-education staff identify a potential young carer with low – moderate needs they should raise a concern through the Named Person Service, which will be passed to the appropriate Named Person.

Exceptions to the above include:

• Where the young carer is a pupil at a grant aided or independent school, the responsible authority is the Manager or Proprietor of the school.
• Where a pre-school child resides in a different health board area than they would otherwise stay, due to a decision made by NAHSCP, the responsible authority is the health board where they would otherwise reside.

5. North Ayrshire Approach to Young Carer Statements

Most young carers meet the definition of a ‘child in need’ under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995. Young carers are also highlighted as children who may need different or more support to what is normally provided, referred to as ‘additional support needs’ under the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 & 2009.

Getting it Right for Young Carers, The Young Carers Strategy for Scotland 2010 – 2015 highlights the getting it right for every child approach and without necessarily being identified as a young carer, all young people should benefit from universal and more specialist services, working together to support their wellbeing.

In line with the national ‘Getting it Right for Every Child’ approach, North Ayrshire staff will work within the parameters of this and continue to have outcome-focused conversations involving and engaging young people in order to put their views first. This enables a clearer understanding of identified needs and improves support planning based on what matters to the young person.

Staff should also explore the whole family approach by considering the young person’s networks of support and wider family/community, along with the impact the cared-for person’s needs is having on everyone around them.

To support a smooth transition for young carers between primary and secondary school, the Named Person should pass on all relevant information held including
details of the young carers' circumstances, additional support needs and successful supports/interventions.

6. **Completing the Young Carer Statement (YCS)**

Section 15 of the Act outlines the information that must be contained in an YCS. The HSCP has consulted with registered young carers across North Ayrshire to consider the content and approach locally.

Young Carers advised they would benefit from being able to invite a trusted adult or advocate to help them understand their YCS and help get their views, thoughts and feelings across.

Circumstances can arise where there are strains or relationships that have the potential for conflict of opinion. This can be between the young person and the person they care for/family, or indeed the Named Person/Teacher who identified or is responsible for preparing the Statement with the young carer. It is recommended that staff seek the best person to assist the young person. Advice on advocacy can be found here [Scottish Government Guidance on Carer Advocacy](#) to help young carers.

If concerns are such that tensions are having a detrimental impact on the young carer’s wellbeing, raising a child or adult protection concern in line with our local CP or ASP guidelines may be necessary.

In terms of timescales for preparing and completion of an YCS, legislation does not state a timeframe but it would be best to inform young carers and their families of indicative timescales. It is fully expected that some will take longer than others due to complexity, urgency or risk. The focus should be on achieving the right support for the young carer rather than inputting measure. If there are delays, it is good practice to advise the young carer of the reason.

Timescales will be set under Section 13 where young carers are caring for someone who is terminally ill. Regulations and guidance will be updated in due course when this is passed and published by the Scottish Ministers.

**Young Carer Statement Content**

- **Section 1 – What will happen to your Statement?**
  This is the agreement between the Named Person/Lead Professional and the young carer, and establishes the role and expectations of each person. It details what the young carer should expect to happen during and following their conversation, including who they wish to/do not wish to share their YCS with.

- **Section 2 – Information about me**
  Collects basic personal information about the young carer which will already be known to the Named Person.
• **Section 3 – My role as a Carer**
Establishes who the young person cares for, the nature and extent of care they give and the initial impact on the young person's daily life.

• **Section 4 – Caring**
Begins to look more in depth at the SHANARRI indicators to detail what physical and/or emotional support the young carer provides, when and how they feel about this.

Throughout the conversation consider whether the young carer is able and willing to care, taking into account the age and maturity of the young person along with the nature of the caring role, appropriateness of tasks and possible risks to their wellbeing. This may be closely linked to the formal support provided, if any, to the person they care for detailed in their own assessment of need. Looking at this may help confirm if the young carer is willing and able or if there is unmet need for the person they care for. Section 30 of the Act amends Section 12A of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 and Section 23 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 to require the local authority to take into account i) the care provided by the young carer in decisions about the cared-for person and ii) the views of the young carer in so far as it is reasonable and practicable to do so.

Where a Child’s Plan or Wellbeing Assessment is in place for a young person who is also carrying out a caring role, it is good practice to agree with all relevant persons how the YCS sits alongside the Child’s Plan to ensure a coherent and continuous approach to planning support whilst ensuring we identify and capture specific needs relating to their caring role.

• **Section 5 – Time for me**
Look at what the young carer does when they have time away from caring. Under Section 3 of the Act, a break from caring can be any form of support that enables a carer to have time away from their normal caring responsibilities. It does not provide a duty to provide a break from caring in every case but does require each individual's needs to be looked at on their own merit.

Young carers in North Ayrshire told the Carers Team that they considered a break from caring to be:

• Going out with friends or sleepovers (without the cared-for person)
• Going to sports or after school clubs (without the cared-for person)
• Going to the cinema (with or without the cared-for person)
• Reading a book or listening to music (breaks at home)
• Playing video games or watching TV/Youtube (breaks at home)
• Spending time with other family members (one-one)
• Taking a holiday with family (with the cared-for person) ***Contact Unity for advice on accessing family breaks***

Some of the examples above should lead us to consider what is already happening around us, as a community approach can mean a wider choice of short breaks provided much closer to home.
Where a young carer meets the local eligibility criteria of substantial or critical for any of their outcomes, the Lead Professional has a duty to offer and promote a variety of support under Section 25 of the Act which sets out the four options under Section 19 of the Self-directed Support (Scotland) Act 2013.

This break will frequently include the provision of replacement care for the cared-for person where friends or family cannot help, even if the cared-for is not in regular receipt of social care support. The HSCP has a duty under Section 24 to provide or arrange replacement care that the young carer would normally provide, in the manner that the cared-for person wishes under the options of self-directed support legislation, to allow the carer to have a break from caring.

It is often noted that a break from caring or respite benefits both the young carer and the person they care for. The legislation makes the difference clear in that;

- Support provided to a young carer under the Act in order to facilitate a break from caring is noted in their YCS
- Support provided to the cared-for person to meet their assessed needs is noted in either a Child’s Plan or Supported Self-Assessment Questionnaire (SSAQ) as opportunities for socialisation. Where the cared-for is an adult, services may be chargeable.
- Also care for the cared-for person is not replacement care if the purpose is to relieve the young carer, on a permanent basis, from inappropriate caring tasks.

- **Section 6 – School/Home**

Encourage the conversation about the positive or negative impact/risk to the young carer in terms of their attendance and attainment at school. The 2004 Act makes clear that young carers may experience barriers to learning and additional support needs should be identified, provided for and reviewed. Further guidance on Attendance in Scottish Schools, ‘Included, Engaged, Involved: Part 1’ makes clear that education authorities should recognise the impact that caring responsibilities may have on attendance and follow up on these absence patterns. Some of these needs may be met by small changes within school such as;

- Alternative arrangements for the completion of homework
- A quiet space to carry out study
- Where appropriate, allow the young carer to telephone home during break or lunch
- Provide advice on travel where attendance is an issue
- Use SEEMIS code Q (Exceptional Domestic Circumstances (Authorised) should be used) for attendance
- Alternative times for after/out with school time activities (e.g. sports, music, even school excursions) if a young carer is unable to attend due to caring
- Display and actively promote young carer information, including but not limited to Unity or Young Scot etc.
- Submitting an exceptional circumstances request to SQA following an examination for those young carers they believe have suffered an exceptional circumstance e.g. a domestic circumstances where they had no option but to
take on caring duties as opposed to attending an examination/arriving late for an examination.

Specific information may be necessary when a carer transitions from young carer to adult carer. This may involve a change in support between services or relate to moving from Primary to Secondary/Secondary to Higher Education, leaving school and beginning employment or no longer requiring support. The YCS will continue to have effect until the carer is provided with an adult carer support plan. For young people leaving school at 16 years old, they are still considered a young carer under the Act until they reach the age of 18 years.

- **Section 7 – My Life**
  Expand the conversation to look at the emotional impact on the young person and gages how happy, healthy, safe and confident they feel. At the point of review it is expected that a measure of change or maintenance can be gathered to track and evidence the quality of support for our young carers.

- **Section 8 – My Voice**
  Carer involvement is a key principal of the Act and we must appropriately involve young carers in the planning and evaluation of carer services and support for the person they care for. Young carers have expressed that involvement and being listened to helps them feel confident, valued and in control and then able to make informed choices about their caring role and potential need for support.

  The established Equal Partners in Care (EPiC) framework states: ‘Carers have a unique role in the life of the person they care for. When we are planning and delivering care for that person, it’s important that we involve their carer. They have valuable knowledge to contribute and any decision will have an impact on their caring role’.

- **Section 9 – My Support**
  Begin to identify the level of need and individual outcomes for the young carer, essentially what matters to them and what help or support, if any, would make life a bit easier to balance daily living and caring.

  These support needs could include a wide range of aspects including their physical needs, emotional needs, relationship or social needs, health and wellbeing needs or economic and physical environment needs. All needs must be recorded in the YCS and if a young carer has no need in a particular area, it is good practice to note this also. Section 15 of the Act is prescriptive and details all matters that must be considered and recorded when preparing an YCS. It is best that a proportionate approach is taken as not all issues will be raised by the young carer through conversation.

***North Ayrshire Guidance on Eligibility Criteria and Thresholds for Young Carers*** (See Appendix 4)

The Act requires North Ayrshire Council to develop local eligibility criteria for carers. This is a framework to help determine the level of support to provide to young carers.
based on their identified needs. North Ayrshire young carers have been involved in setting this criteria.

Due to the geography of Ayrshire there may be young carers living in one local authority and caring for someone in another. Some young carers may attend school in East or South but normal residency is in North. The responsible local authority, where the person they care for resides, has the duty and power to support the young carer.

There is no national threshold and North Ayrshire Council have chosen the levels of substantial and critical impact/risk to the young carer to trigger the duty to provide formal support, initiating the duty to offer the four options of self-directed support as the mechanism to deliver the agreed eligible support.

Each young carer’s circumstances will be considered on their own merit and North Ayrshire Council will provide preventative support to those young carers whose needs currently fall between low – moderate support. In these circumstances it is our duty to provide the young person with relevant and accurate information and advice or refer them to universal or community-based services i.e. Unity – Carers Centre for information, peer support, one-one support, counselling etc.

Decisions about whether young carers identified needs meet local eligibility thresholds depend on the information gathered throughout conversations with the young person from the previous sections. In all cases, the young carer must be informed of the eligibility decision and the reason for determining.

In order for the young carer to receive support in their caring role, the person they care for does not need to be receiving formal services or support.

- **Section 10 – Important things to do if I can no longer care**
  This section requires information about arrangements to be put in place for the care of the cared-for person in an emergency. This may be due to the young carer being unwell or in hospital or if there is adverse transport or weather issues that they cannot attend, for example. It is recommended that any arrangements or sharing of contacts is discussed thoroughly with the cared-for person to ensure all matters are agreed by everyone.

North Ayrshire Carers Appreciation Card can help in these circumstances as carrying the card at all times helps to identify the young person as a carer and starts the conversation or process of putting support in place in times of crisis.

Future planning is about longer term plans for the person you care for, when you are no longer able or willing to care. Future plans are more in-depth than emergency plans. This may be when the young carer plans to move away from home to pursue higher education. The carer, cared-for person and all other relevant family members or friends should be involved in this plan. The wishes and preferences of the carer and the cared-for person should be taken into account. Some things to consider include, but are not limited to, current care and future care, living arrangements, practical, legal and financial provision including Power of Attorney, guardianship, wills and trusts (if relevant).
Section 11 – How are we going to do this?

The young carer’s individual outcomes should link to and support the achievement of their potential in relation to the wellbeing indicators of the Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) approach – Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included. The what, how, who and when will be specific to the young carer and their circumstances. Each outcome may or may not meet the eligibility thresholds of substantial/critical and can have a short or longer term focus. It is best practice that we note all outcomes, the manner in which support will help, who is responsible for overseeing this and when this will be completed.

Young carer’s eligible needs are those needs for support that cannot be met through support to the cared-for person or from small changes from universal and community-based support.

Section 15 requires the YCS to be reviewed in the following circumstances:

- When the person being cared-for moves to a different local authority area
- When the person being cared-for becomes resident under Part 2 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968/Section 25 of the Mental Health (care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 or Part 2 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995
- Any other change in the young carer or the person(s) they care for circumstances which the Named Person or Lead Professional views as having a material impact on the care provided by the young carer
- When the person being cared for is discharged from hospital
- When there is a deterioration in the young carer’s health & wellbeing, development or attainment
- If particular outcomes have differing timeframes

Reviews should be proportionate to the level of impact/risk/caring role/complexity of care but should be carried out at least annually in line with all other assessment guidelines.

The review will keep information contained in the YCS up to date, ensure that support has been/continues to be relevant or effective and would consider if the needs and outcomes of the young person has changed. This may result in a change to eligible support.

Again the young carer should be provided with a physical copy of their YCS in a reasonable timescale.

All young carers can request a YCS to be carried out, at any time, no matter how old or young they may be. For young carers aged up to 12, parental consent will be requested. Age 12 upwards can make their own decision, but it is best practice to notify parent/carer. Any young person age 16 plus can make the decision on their own.
Section 12 – Where can I ask for help, advice or support?

- **Unity North Ayrshire Carers Centre** on 01294 311333 or northayrshire.carers@unity-enterprise.com
- **North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership** on 01294 317709/317784 or kmroz@north-ayrshire.gcsx.gov.uk or kerryowen@north-ayrshire.gcsx.gov.uk
- **Young Scot**
- **Carers UK**
- **North Ayrshire Carers Appreciation Card**
- **CareNA**
- **NHS Direct** or on 111

**Only in the event of an emergency contact Police, Fire or Ambulance on 999**
Appendix 1

New Duties Relating to Young Carers

1.1 Section 12 – Places a duty on all responsible authorities to offer a Young Carers Statement (YCS) to all identified young carers and prepare for those that take up on the offer, as well as for any young carer who requests one. NB: This applies whether or not the young carer requires or already has a Child’s Plan as per Section 33 of the Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

1.2 Section 14 – Duty to take into account any impact that having one or more protected characteristics has on the young carer under Equality Act 2010.

1.3 Section 15 – If the young carer’s identified needs meet local eligibility criteria (Substantial or Critical levels) then the YCS must detail the support the responsible local authority provides or intends to provide to meet these eligible needs, who will provide and the cost.

1.4 Section 34 – For needs that are not deemed eligible for the provision of support we must ensure that we provide quality, consistent and current information, advice and signpost to universal, preventative and community based resources.

1.5 Section 19 – North Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership (NAHSCP) and Education & Youth Employment (E&YE) have agreed the position of the ‘responsible authority’ for supporting young carers in the preparation of their YCS. Additional Support Needs duties under the Education (Scotland) Act 2004 were considered in this decision as caring has the potential to create barriers to attendance, attainment and social development.
Appendix 2

Service Access Social Work Team Contacts

1. Arran Health & Social Care Office  
   Shore Road  
   Lamlash  
   KA27 8JY  
   Tel: 01770 600742

2. Irvine Health & Social Care Office  
   Bridgegate House  
   Irvine  
   KA12 8BD  
   Tel: 01294 310000

3. Kilbirnie Health & Social Care Office  
   Craigton Road  
   Kilbirnie  
   KA25 6LJ  
   Tel: 01505 684551

4. Saltcoats Health & Social Care Office  
   Saltcoats Town Hall  
   Countess Street  
   Saltcoats  
   KA21 5HW  
   Tel: 01294 310000

5. Brooksby Medical and Resource Centre  
   31 Brisbane Road  
   Largs  
   KA30 8LH  
   Tel: 01475 674545
Appendix 3 – YCS Process

NB: Where HSCP staff identify a Young Carer & determine risk or impact of caring role is substantial/critical they will continue to lead & not pass to NP
North Ayrshire Carer’s Eligibility Criteria

Implementation Date: 1st April 2018
Carers Act: Statement of Intent

The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 (fully implemented 1st April 2018) is intended to better support Scotland’s adult and young carers on a more consistent basis so that they can continue to care, if they so wish, in good health, allowing them to have a life alongside caring. *(See appendix one for meaning of carer)*

Specifically for young carers, they should have a childhood similar to their non-carer peers and should be enabled to be children first and foremost, relieved of any inappropriate caring roles, allowing them to have a quality of life.

Carers Act: Provisions

The Act introduces the right to a new Young Carer Statement (YCS) encouraging meaningful conversations with young people to understand their personal needs and outcomes. It will improve the access to support at all levels without any requirement for young carers to provide care on a substantial or regular basis. Unity (North Ayrshire Carers Centre) are well placed to help the delivery of lower levels of support including accessible information, advice and guidance across the localities.

Engaging effectively with young carers as equal partners will help empower them, providing young carers and professionals with more useful information about the support that may be available in our communities. This is also reflected in the duty applied to health boards to involve carers in hospital discharge processes, ensuring support is relevant, appropriately timed and delivered in a cohesive way.

Effective delivery of support to young carers will improve their physical and emotional health and wellbeing in turn benefitting those being cared for and can help to sustain good caring relationships.

The North Ayrshire Carers Strategy, for carers written by carers, will be reviewed and a new plan for how we identify and support young carers in their localities will be set. This will include a short break service statement again, for carers developed by carers.

An Eligibility Criteria Framework is required to be set locally to help the North Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership (NAHSCP) to determine levels of support based on assessed/identified need and impact/risk of the caring role.
Eligibility Criteria Framework: Why and what it achieves

Eligibility criteria ensures we have a fair and consistent system for determining how the NAHSCP targets finite public resources. It is the local authority’s duty to set and apply the criteria alongside the YCS to exchange information about caring. It means that young carers with different needs will be treated equally in accessing the right level of information, advice, support and services.

The Framework covers two aspects:

I. Levels and types of need for support
II. The thresholds that must be met to be eligible for support

Eligibility Criteria Framework: Process

The process can be broken down into four phases:

Phase One – A carer who wishes to access support can request a YCS from the NAHSCP. It is also the duty of NAHSCP staff to offer a YCS on identification of someone carrying out a caring role. This leads to a joint conversation to consider their caring situation and needs, their health and general wellbeing and how they can best achieve their own outcomes. The YCS is completed to identify and record fully each young carer’s individual needs, outcomes and support. Not all young carers assessed will have eligible needs. However, all young carers always have access to information, advice, guidance, and universal preventative services.

Phase Two – The support plan or statement will identify what matters to the young carer as well as the impact of caring on their life. As the conversation continues the young carer and professional will consider how to achieve the things that matter.

Phase Three – The eligibility criteria framework is applied here to identify the level of support from the impact or risk of the person caring. If there are outcomes that meet the eligibility threshold, it is our duty to offer and explain the four options of Self-directed Support to consider how the young carer may have their support delivered along with all options of available resources.

Phase Four – When the level of support has been agreed, and the young carer fully informed of all options and resources, the young carer will decide how they wish their support to be arranged from the four options of Self-directed Support. The young carer will be involved in each stage of the process and in all decision making. A review date will be set and recorded at this point.
**Young Carer Statement: Purpose & Preparation**

The YCS will identify and record each young carer’s individual needs, personal outcomes and support to be considered to meet those needs. The statement helps to ensure young carers do not take on inappropriate caring tasks or caring that is inconsistent with their age and maturity. The statement further ensures there is effective planning in place to support young carers in transition to adulthood.

The responsible authority is NHS Ayrshire & Arran for pre-school age, and the NAHSCP via the Named Person Service for school age up to the age of 18 years, or having reached 18 and still in school. Young carers can request a statement to be carried out and we must offer the YCS on identification of a young carer. The YCS should link to the Child’s Plan if there is one in place. Consideration has been given to who is best placed to support the young carer to prepare their statement. The NAHSCP and Education & Early Years have agreed it will be Head Teacher/Pastoral staff until the young carer meets the eligibility thresholds of substantial or critical for one or more of their outcomes. The YCS will then be referred to the Named Person Service for tracking and passed to the appropriate Children & Families Social Work Team for action. The outcomes cover the SHANARRI indicators of wellbeing: Safe/Health/Achieving/Nurtured/Active/Respected/Responsible/Included.

**Eligibility Risk Indicators**

Eligibility for services is decided in terms of risk to an individual. There are five categories:

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<tr>
<td>No Impact</td>
<td>Indicates no quality of life issues as a result of their caring role. There is no risk to the carer’s health &amp; wellbeing and they are able to experience a good life balance. There is no current need for information, guidance or support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Impact</td>
<td>Indicates there may be some quality of life issues but they are low in risk to the carer’s health and wellbeing and opportunities for independence. Some need for universal and/or preventative information, guidance or support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate Impact</td>
<td>Indicates there is some quality of life issues and they are causing enough risk to impact on the carer’s health, wellbeing and potential for independent living. Some provision of health &amp; social care services may be appropriate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substantial Impact</td>
<td>Indicates there is major risk to a carer’s health, wellbeing and capacity for independent living. Urgent provision of health &amp; social care services is likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Impact</td>
<td>Indicates there is a significant risk to a carer’s health, wellbeing and capacity for independent living. Immediate provision of health and social care services is likely.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Eligibility Thresholds: This shows where eligibility sits in relation to carer support in practice and how NAHSCP can support carers. This includes examples of services, which are not intended to be exhaustive or prescriptive (individual and local circumstances will determine services).
**Eligibility Criteria Framework**: This shows how criteria for reaching thresholds could be used to assess levels of need against the Carer outcomes.

**Key**:  
The blue circle shows the threshold between Levels 2 and 3 support. The red circle shows the threshold between Levels 3 and 4 support – where the Duty to Support is triggered.

**How it works**: All carers should be offered a carer support plan and free access to general, universal services. Being assessed as ‘at risk’ in one of the areas of a carer’s life triggers entitlement for additional services, which should be based on the four Self-directed Support options. All of these outcomes are discussed during the completion of an ACSP/YCS.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safe/Living Environment</th>
<th>Universal support moving to commissioned services and support (local authority, power to support)</th>
<th>More targeted, commissioned services &amp; support services &amp; support (Local Authority ‘Duty to support’)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Impact</td>
<td>Young Carer free from abuse, neglect or harm at home, at school and in their community.</td>
<td>Young carers situation at home, school or in their community is suitable and there are safety risks for the young carer and the cared for person.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Impact</td>
<td>Young Carer free from abuse, neglect or harm at home, at school and in their community.</td>
<td>Young carers situation at home, school or in their community is unsuitable and there are safety risks for the young carer and the cared for person.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate Impact</td>
<td>Young Carer free from abuse, neglect or harm at home, at school and in their community.</td>
<td>Young carers situation at home, school or in their community is unsuitable and there are safety risks for the young carer and the cared for person.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substantial Impact</td>
<td>Young Carer free from abuse, neglect or harm at home, at school and in their community.</td>
<td>Young carers situation at home, school or in their community is unsuitable and there are safety risks for the young carer and the cared for person.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Impact</td>
<td>Young Carer free from abuse, neglect or harm at home, at school and in their community.</td>
<td>Young carers situation at home, school or in their community is unsuitable and there are safety risks for the young carer and the cared for person.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Health                  | Young carer is in good physical and mental health with no identified medical needs. | Young carer is having difficulty in managing aspects of the caring/family/social roles and responsibilities. Young carer’s mental and physical health is affected as a result. |
|                        | Young carer is able to manage some aspects of their caring/family/social roles and responsibilities. There is a possibility of the young carer’s health being affected. | Young carer is having difficulty in managing aspects of the caring/family/social roles and responsibilities. Young carer’s mental and physical health is affected as a result. |
|                        | Young carer is able to manage some aspects of their caring/family/social roles and responsibilities. There is a possibility of the young carer’s health being affected. | Young carer is having difficulty in managing aspects of the caring/family/social roles and responsibilities. Young carer’s mental and physical health is affected as a result. |
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|                        | Young carer is able to manage some aspects of their caring/family/social roles and responsibilities. There is a possibility of the young carer’s health being affected. | Young carer is having difficulty in managing aspects of the caring/family/social roles and responsibilities. Young carer’s mental and physical health is affected as a result. |

| Achieving/education     | Young carer continues to access education/training and as no difficulty in managing caring role alongside. | Young carer is missing out on education/training and there is a risk of this ending in the near future due to their caring role. |
|                        | Young carer has some difficulty managing caring alongside education/training. There is a small risk to sustaining education/training in the long term. | Young carer is missing out on education/training and there is a risk of this ending in the near future due to their caring role. |
|                        | Young carer has difficulty managing caring alongside education/training. There is a small risk to sustaining education/training in the long term. | Young carer is missing out on education/training and there is a risk of this ending in the near future due to their caring role. |
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|                        | Young carer has difficulty managing caring alongside education/training. There is a small risk to sustaining education/training in the long term. | Young carer is missing out on education/training and there is a risk of this ending in the near future due to their caring role. |

<p>| Nurtured/relationships  | Young carer displays positive emotional wellbeing. They have a nurturing place to live and a positive relationship with the cared for person. Young carer feels acknowledged by | Relationship between the young carer and the cared-for person is broken. The young carer is unable to continue caring or has difficulty sustaining vital or most aspects of their caring role. |
|                        | Young carer role beginning to have an impact on emotional wellbeing and may require additional help when needed. Risk of detrimental impact on relationship with cared for person. | Relationship between the young carer and the cared-for person is broken. The young carer is unable to continue caring or has difficulty sustaining vital or most aspects of their caring role. |
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|                        | Young carer role beginning to have an impact on emotional wellbeing and may require additional help when needed. Risk of detrimental impact on relationship with cared for person. | Relationship between the young carer and the cared-for person is broken. The young carer is unable to continue caring or has difficulty sustaining vital or most aspects of their caring role. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Active/life balance</strong></th>
<th>Young carer has opportunities to take part in activities such as play, recreation and sport at home, in school and in their community.</th>
<th>Young carer has some opportunity to take part in activities such as play, recreation and sport at home, in school and in their community.</th>
<th>Young carer has limited opportunity to take part in activities such as play, recreation and sport at home, in school and in their community.</th>
<th>Young carer has no opportunity to take part in activities such as play, recreation and sport at home, in school and in their community. This has a negative effect on their healthy growth/development.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Respect/ Responsible</strong></td>
<td>Young carer has regular opportunities to be heard and involved in decisions. They have an active and responsible role to be involved in decisions that affect them.</td>
<td>Young carer has some opportunities to be heard and involved in decisions and has an active and responsible role to be involved in decisions that affect them due to their caring role.</td>
<td>Young carer has few and irregular opportunities to be heard and involved in decisions that affect them due to their caring role.</td>
<td>Young carer has no opportunities to be heard and involved in decisions that affect them due to their caring role.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Included/ Finance</strong></td>
<td>Young carer feels accepted in the community where they live and learn. Young carer has time to take part in community activities. Free from financial stress.</td>
<td>Young carer feels some acceptance in the community where they live and learn but is unsure how to take part in community activities. There is a small risk of financial stress.</td>
<td>Young carer has limited acceptance in the community where they live and learn, due to their caring role. There is a risk of financial pressure.</td>
<td>Young carer does not feel accepted in the community where they live and learn. Young carer’s financial position is severe and there is financial hardship.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Eligibility Criteria Review

This policy and associated procedures will be reviewed within three years subject to any further changes in legislation.

Documents and Policies Related to Eligibility Criteria

Carers (Scotland) Act 2016
Getting it right for every child - GIRFEC
Fair Access to Community Care Services
Self-Directed Support Policy
Local Carers Strategy
Appendix One

**Meaning of Carer**

1) In this Act ‘carer’ means an individual who provides or intends to provide care for another individual (the ‘cared-for person’)
2) But 1) does not apply –
   a) In the case of a cared-for person under 18 years old, to the extent that the care is or would be provided because of the person’s age, or
   b) In any case to the extent that care is or would be provided, under or by virtue of a contract or as voluntary work.
3) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations –
   a) Provide that ‘contract’ in 2) b) does or, as the case may be, does not include agreements of a kind specified in the regulations,
   b) Permit a relevant authority to disregard 2) where the authority considers the relationship between the carer and cared-for person is such that it would be appropriate to do so.
4) In this part relevant authority means a responsible local authority or responsible authority (See section 41 (1) of the Act).

**Meaning of Young Carer**

1) In this Act ‘young carer’ means a carer who –
   a) Is under 18 years old, or
   b) Has attained the age of 18 years while a pupil at a school, and has since attaining that age remained a pupil at that or another school.