



Carers Scotland response to National Minimum Information Standards for All Adults in Scotland for Assessment, Shared Care and Support Plan, Review and Carers Assessment and Support

Carers Scotland welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Scottish Government's consultation on the above compendium of standards. Carers Scotland was involved in discussions on the standards and therefore our comments are limited to the response below.

Carers Scotland is the voice of carers. Carers provide unpaid care by looking after an ill, frail or disabled family member, friend or partner.

Carers give so much so society, yet as a consequence of caring, they experience ill health, poverty and discrimination. Carers Scotland is an organisation of carers fighting to end this injustice.

We have focused our response on the Minimum Standards for Carers Assessment and Guidance for National Standards for Carers Assessments.

We welcome the tone and content of the standards, in particular their reinforcement of carers as key partners in the provision of care, the importance of valuing carers and the focus on improving outcomes for carers.

We would however recommend the inclusion of links with guidance on NHS Carer Information Strategies and for Respite and Short Breaks to ensure a more holistic approach between all partners.

Furthermore, whilst we feel the standards themselves are excellent, the most important aspect will be their implementation. Without effective implementation it is likely that there will continue to be a poor uptake of Carers Assessments and those undertaken will be not result in the intended outcomes for carers, as evidence from carers has consistently demonstrated. In addition, for the

standards to achieve good outcomes for carers it is essential that they work in tandem with information campaigns and other measures to reach carers that inform them of their right to an assessment. Only then will the standards be effective.

There is also a clear need to ensure that robust systems are developed to measure effectiveness and impact.

Finally, research on the value of caring was undertaken at the end of last year by Carers UK. This updated research, "Valuing Carers", provides an updated figure increasing the value of the care provided by carers from £5 billion to £7.6 billion

Carers Scotland
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About carers in Scotland

- There are 660,000 carers in Scotland saving the economy £7.6 billion each year.
- 110,000 carers provide 50 hours of care or more each week.
- 178,000 people become carers every year.
- 3 in 5 of the population will be carers at some point in their lives.
- 250,000 carers juggle their caring responsibilities with employment.
- Carers often face significant poverty with a third in debt and a further third cutting back on food or heating. More than half of carers say that financial worries are affecting their health.
- By 2037 there will be an estimated 1 million carers in Scotland

About Carers Scotland

Carers Scotland is an organisation of carers fighting to end the injustice of carer ill health, poverty and discrimination. We will not stop until people recognise the true value of carers' contribution to society and carers get the practical, financial and emotional support they need.

Carers Scotland is here to improve carers' lives.

- **We fight for equality for carers.** We want carers to have the same rights as everyone to an ordinary life – a fair level of income, access to support to protect their health and wellbeing and access to the world of work, leisure and education.

- **We seek to empower carers.** We want carers to be actively involved in the design, development and delivery of services. We want carers to be recognised and involved as key partners in the provision of care.

Carers Scotland achieves this by:

- campaigning for the changes that make a real difference for carers.
- providing information and advice to carers about their rights and how to get support
- mobilising carers and supporters to influence decision makers.
- gathering hard evidence about what needs to change.
- transforming the understanding of caring so that carers are valued and not discriminated against.
- providing carer awareness training for staff in health, social care and the voluntary sector
- promoting training for carers to maximise their skills and experience.

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