

- In the UK, the Scottish Parliament has devolved powers for Health and Social Care legislation and has taken different directions to England and Wales
- Scotland has specific legislation for carers *The Carers Act Scotland (2016)*
- The National Carers Strategy was launched in December 2022
- There is currently wide-scale social care reform, including the establishment of a National Care Service

The right to

- individual support plans for adult carers and young carers
- emergency and anticipatory care planning
- access to a local information and advice
- universal preventative support
- A personal support package for higher needs
- be consulted on services for carers and the supported person
- be included in the hospital discharge of the person they are caring for

- More involvement of carers as Equal Partners in Care
- Increased investment in carer support (£88.4 million additional funding in 2022/23)
- A clearer pathway to access support and a greater focus on early preventative support
- Greater choice and control for carers
- more innovative approaches to the provision of support
- Better outcomes: 97% of carers said their ability to support the person they care for had improved and 86% said their quality of life had improved (Glasgow outcomes survey)

Reform of Adult Social Care

The National Care Service Bill



- A set of principles setting out a collaborative, human rights based approach to the provision of social care
- A shift in responsibility for social care from 32 local authorities to national government
- A legally enforceable entitlement for a carer to take 'sufficient' breaks from caring (respite breaks)
- A move towards a fair workforce with better terms and conditions
- Ethical commissioning instead of competitive tendering

The National Care Service Bill

What does this mean for carers?



- A right to breaks from caring would be a huge step forward. It will require significant investment in broad and flexible options to provide for a diverse range of needs
- The principle of co-production is an important one and there has been wide-ranging engagement, but there is still a lack of detail about the new structures
- How social care can be adequately funded during a time of austerity and cuts?
- There are challenges to recruit the health and care workforce & some political uncertainty about the scale of the plans

- Carers are recognised as equal partners in care and are represented on national and local strategic planning groups. For example, the Government's Pandemic Recovery Group & local planning committees
- The National Carers Strategy was published in December 2022 and local carers strategies are being developed in all 32 local authorities
- We have a Carers Policy Team within the Scottish Government and a government Minister with responsibility for carers
- We endeavour to work across all workstreams which are relevant to carers

Re-drawing the line

Improved rights for informal carers

Responsibility for care provision shifting more from the individual to government and society

