



## Connecting Young Carers

*Ensuring young carers are seen, heard and supported*

### **Carers (Scotland) Act 2016.**

The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 will come into effect as of April 2018 and places a duty on the local authority to identify, record and support young carers. Local Authorities will be **duty bound** to recognise and prepare a **Young Carer Statement** that summarises the needs and actions that should be taken to address any barriers that young carers face. Statements should be prepared for carers under 18, or 18 and over if they are still at school.

Schools have an important role in identifying and supporting young carers with ‘Young Carer’ being a designated additional support need.

The statement should identify personal outcomes for the young carer and must contain information about:

- Impact of caring on the young carers wellbeing (referencing SHANARRI guidelines)
- Extent to which young carer is able and willing to provide care
- Extent to which the nature of the care provided is appropriate
- Support which is needed, if any

In Highland the Child’s Plan process will provide the vehicle for meeting this legal requirement. For some, the **Young Carer’s Statement** will be short and simple and can be recorded in pastoral notes on SEEMiS, or on a Form 1. Young carers in high end caring roles require a more detailed plan and their needs and personal outcome should be summarised in a Child’s Plan. Where a young carer already has a Child’s Plan to address other identified needs the **statement** should be incorporated within the existing plan to ensure there is a focus on the impact caring has on the young person. The **statement** should be regularly reviewed to account for any changes in caring and family circumstances.

The **statement** will continue to have affect until a young carer reaches 18 and has left school. When a young carer reaches 18 and intends to continue to provide care they will be offered an **Adult Carers Support Plan**.

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