

Consultation on proposal for a new 'Carers Census'

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT STATISTICS: PROPOSAL FOR A NEW 'CARERS CENSUS'

1. Introduction

1.1 This document consults on a new data collection on Carers. This data will be used to monitor the impact of the Carers Act being introduced on 1 April 2018 and will therefore look to gather baseline data for the year ahead of implementation of the Act (from January 2017) and continue to collect data annually thereafter.

1.2 This data collection has been proposed by the Carers Bill Finance Advisory Group whose membership includes COSLA, local authorities, health boards, National Carers Organisations and Scottish Government. One of the original aims of the Finance Advisory group was to establish a baseline position in respect of current spend and related activity on adult and young carers (across LAs, NHS Boards, and Third Sector).

1.3 A Carers Act Short Life Working Group (SLWG) was formed in June 2016 to consider what a new data collection should look like and has met each month since then. Papers and minutes from the group are available at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Health/DataSupplier/CarersData>

2. Timings

2.1. This consultation will take place until dd mmm 2016

2.2. An event will be organised for early 2017 for Local Authorities to discuss the changes being proposed in more detail.

3. Background

3.1. The Carers (Scotland) Bill received unanimous support in the Scottish Parliament and was passed on February 4, 2016. The new [Carers \(Scotland\) Act 2016](#) will be commenced in 2017-18.

3.2. The Act extends and enhances the rights of carers. Provisions in the Act will ensure better and more consistent support for carers and young carers so that

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they can continue to care, if they so wish, in better health and to have a life alongside caring.

3.3. The package of provisions in the Act is designed to support carers' health and wellbeing. These include, amongst other things:

- a duty on local authorities to provide support to carers, based on the carer's identified needs which meet the local eligibility criteria. National matters which local authorities must have regard to when setting their local eligibility criteria will be set out in regulations;
- a specific Adult Carer Support Plan and Young Carer Statement to identify carers' needs and personal outcomes; and
- a requirement for each local authority to have its own information and advice service for carers which must provide information and advice on, amongst other things, emergency and future care planning, advocacy, income maximisation and carers' rights.

3.4. The Scottish Government will be working with key interests including carers, National Carer Organisations, local authorities, health boards, COSLA, and third sector partners to help shape implementation of the Act.

3.5. The proposed Data Specification for the new Carers Census can be found at <weblink>. The data specification aims to set out why each question is being asked and what it will be used for. The following consultation asks for your views on the proposed data specification.

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About you:

Name: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Email: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

- Individual
- Organisation

If organisation then what is the name of your organisation [Click here to enter text.](#)

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

NOTE - If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, anonymous publishing refers only to your name, not your organisation's name. If this option is selected, organisation name will still be published.

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(Required)

- Publish response with name
- Publish response only (anonymous)
- Do not publish response

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

(Required)

- Yes
- No

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Section 1: Baseline data for 2017-18

It is important to measure the impact of the Carers Act and to do this will require robust information on the number of Carers supported by local authorities prior to implementation of the Act. The scope of the survey is defined in the table below:

Are you currently able to identify carers for each of the categories in the table?

<u>All persons who meet any of the following criteria:</u>	<u>Can you identify these carers (Y/N)?</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• have had an assessment* of their needs as carers during the reporting period; or• have been offered an assessment* during the reporting period (including those who turned down the offer of assessment); or• have requested an assessment* during the reporting period; or• have received one or more of the support services in the list below at any time during the reporting period; or• care for a person who has received respite or replacement care at any time during the reporting period;	

*this can be an assessment or a review

If no, please provide further information on whether this could be implemented for 2017-18 and any reasons why this data may be difficult to collect ahead of implementation:

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Section 2: Frequency of collection for baseline data for 2017-18

The first collection of baseline information will be for Jan-March 2017. We propose that the baseline data from January 2017 to March 2018 is collected quarterly to enable refinement and development of the guidance and definitions.

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Section 3: Carer data

The SLWG recommends that the following information is collected for each carer (See Data Specification for more details). The fields shaded grey are proposed as mandatory for the baseline collection in 2017.

Please let us know if you currently hold this information in your Management Information System and provide further comments on the questions asked where applicable.

	Do you currently hold this information (Y/N)?	Comments
Local Authority code		
Unique ID number for the Carer		
CHI number for the carer		
Postcode		
Date of birth		
Gender		
Ethnic group		
Length of time the carer has been providing care		
Number of hours the carer provides in a typical week		
Type of care the carer provides		
The level of care the carer is willing to provide		
The level of care the carer is able to provide		
The impact of providing care on the carer		
Does the carer receive help, support or other assistance in relation to their own care needs		

Do you have any further comments on the information being asked for here?

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Section 4: Cared-for person data

Carers may care for one or more people. The SLWG recommends that the following information is provided for each person that the carer cares for:

	Do you currently hold this information (Y/N)?	Comments
IDCarer		
UniqueID for cared for person		
CHI number for cared for person		
Date of birth or Age group of cared for person		
Postcode of cared for person		
Does carer live with cared for person		
Gender of cared for person		
Ethnic group of cared for person		
Client group of cared for person		
Relationship to carer		

Do you have any further comments on the information being asked for here?

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Section 5: Carer assessment data

The SLWG recommends that the following information is collected for Adult Care Support Plans and Young Carers Statements (see Data Spec for full details). For the baseline data (grey cells) this will relate to the current Carers assessment processes that you have:

For Adult Care Support Plan / Young Carers Statement:	Do you currently hold this information (Y/N)?	Comments
source of referral for ACSP / YCS		
date ACSP / YCS requested / offered		
type of ACSP / YCS – new or review		
ACSP / YCS completed?		
date completed		
ACSP / YCS declined		
date declined		
ACSP / YCS joint assessment with cared for person		
is carer willing and able to care		
is carer eligible for support		
eligibility criteria		
carers support needs		
support provided / purchased by LA		
did review result in change to support		
what conditions would trigger a review		
For Young Carers Statement:		
responsible Authority for young carer		
extent to which responsible authority feels care provided by young carer is appropriate		

Do you have any further comments on the information being asked for here?

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Section 6: Any further comments?

Do you have any further comments on the survey?