



Local Eligibility Criteria for Adult Carers

ANGUS HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP AND ANGUS COUNCIL

(Last reviewed October 2024 The Local Eligibility Criteria will be reviewed by April 2025)

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1. Background to the Local Eligibility Criteria

The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 was implemented from 1 April 2018. The Act recognises the immense value of the unpaid care that is provided in Scotland and the impact that a caring role can have on an adult or young person. Its aim is to support carers' health and well-being and ensure that they are better supported and able to continue to care, if they wish to, and have a life alongside their caring role.

The Act also builds on National Health & Wellbeing Outcome 6: "People who provide unpaid care are supported to look after their own health and wellbeing, including to reduce any negative impact of their caring role on their own health and well-being".

The Act places a duty on Angus Health & Social Care Partnership and Angus Council to introduce Adult Carer Support Plans and Young Carers Statements, to enable adult and young carers to identify their needs and outcomes. Support planning for young carers, who are entitled to be children first and foremost, will reflect the national approach of Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC). **This eligibility criteria is for adult carers, their families and people working with adult carers. For young carers, there is a separate criteria (currently being developed).**

The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 requires that Angus Health & Social Care Partnership and Angus Council develop Local Eligibility Criteria. Where carers of any age have needs that meet these criteria, there is a **duty** to provide support. The local authority also has a **power** to provide support to meet other needs that are identified. The legislation envisages a preventative approach will be taken when support is planned.

The Scottish Government has issued a suite of indicators which summarise the impact of the caring role, to support decision-making on eligibility. It proposes that all local authorities use these but there is local discretion in determining the threshold for support. These indicators link closely to the outcomes which form the basis of the Angus Adult Carer Support Plan.

This document outlines the process to be followed to determine a carer's identified needs and whether there is a duty or power to provide support to meet them. It will ensure a clear and transparent system to determine eligibility so that carers in Angus are appropriately supported.

2. Definitions under the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016

What is a Carer?

A carer is an individual who provides care, or intends to provide care, for another individual. The cared-for person may have an illness, disability, a mental health problem or a substance misuse problem. Exceptions are:

- Where the cared for person is under 18 and is receiving care proportionate to their age
- Where the carer is paid to provide care

What is a Young Carer?

A young carer is a carer who is under 18 years old, or over 18 but still in Education.

What is a Young Adult Carer?

A Young Adult Carer (YAC) is a carer aged between 18 – 24.

What is an Adult Carer?

An adult carer is a carer who is at least 18 years old and not at school

Full definitions of “Carer”, “Young Carer” Young Adult Carer, and “Adult Carer” can be found in the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 [Carers \(Scotland\) Act 2016](#)

3. Assessment and Support Planning

The Act sets out a process to be followed before Angus Health & Social Care Partnership or Angus Council determine whether they have a duty, or a power, to provide support to meet a carer’s identified needs. The steps are:

Step One

Someone who identifies as a Carer or has been advised they are carrying out an unpaid caring role can request an Adult Carer Support Plan (ACSP) and be supported to reflect on their role. Angus Health and Social Care Partnership commission the services of the Angus Carers Centre to support Carers in Angus to complete these. Completing an ACSP will involve conversations between the carer and the worker from the Angus Carer Centre to discuss their caring role, it’s impact and their personal outcomes (what is important to the carer). Together, the carer and the worker from the Angus Carer Centre will identify what might help the carer to achieve these outcomes.

Step Two

This conversation (s), including the personal outcomes and action plan, will be captured in the Adult Carer Support Plan. After both the Carer and the worker from Angus Carers Centre have signed the document, the carer will be given a copy.

Step Three

The carer and the worker from the Angus Carer Centre will consider how any of the identified needs might be met either wholly or partially, starting with informal supports, services that are generally available, or assistance to the cared-for person (other than “replacement care” to provide a break from caring).

Step Four

When Angus Carers Centre have exhausted all of their resources and links, and there are still personal outcomes outstanding that meet the duty of the Council to address, the Adult Carer Support Plan will be directed to the appropriate team who would reflect the needs of the cared for person. (older Peoples Team, Physical Disabilities, Learning Disabilities, Angus Integrated Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service (AIDARS), Community Mental Health Team (CMHT), Children with disability services)

If the remaining needs meet the eligibility threshold in relation to any of the suite of indicators, there is a duty to provide support and this will be met using the four self-directed support options [Self Directed Support \(Scotland\) Act 2013](#). Carers will be involved at each stage of the process and in all decision-making. If the remaining needs do not meet the threshold, a decision will be made by Angus Council or Angus Health and Social Care Partnership about whether the discretionary power to provide support should be used.

Step Five

Your allocated worker from Angus Council or AHSCP will use the information provided in your ACSP and have a conversation (s) with you to determine the outstanding personal outcomes and how these can be achieved. Your allocated worker may also want to review the care and support that your cared for person is receiving to make sure that this is meeting their needs.

Step Six

When the level of support, and the SDS Option has been agreed, and is in place, an initial review date for the ACSP will be set, (approximately after the first 6 weeks) to review how the supports have enabled or enabling the Carer to meet their personal outcomes. Thereafter, this will be reviewed annually, or at the request of the Carer.

4. An Overview of Eligibility

The eligibility criteria focus on the impact of the caring role on the carer and the associated risks if this impact is not reduced. When assessing this, the following questions should be considered:

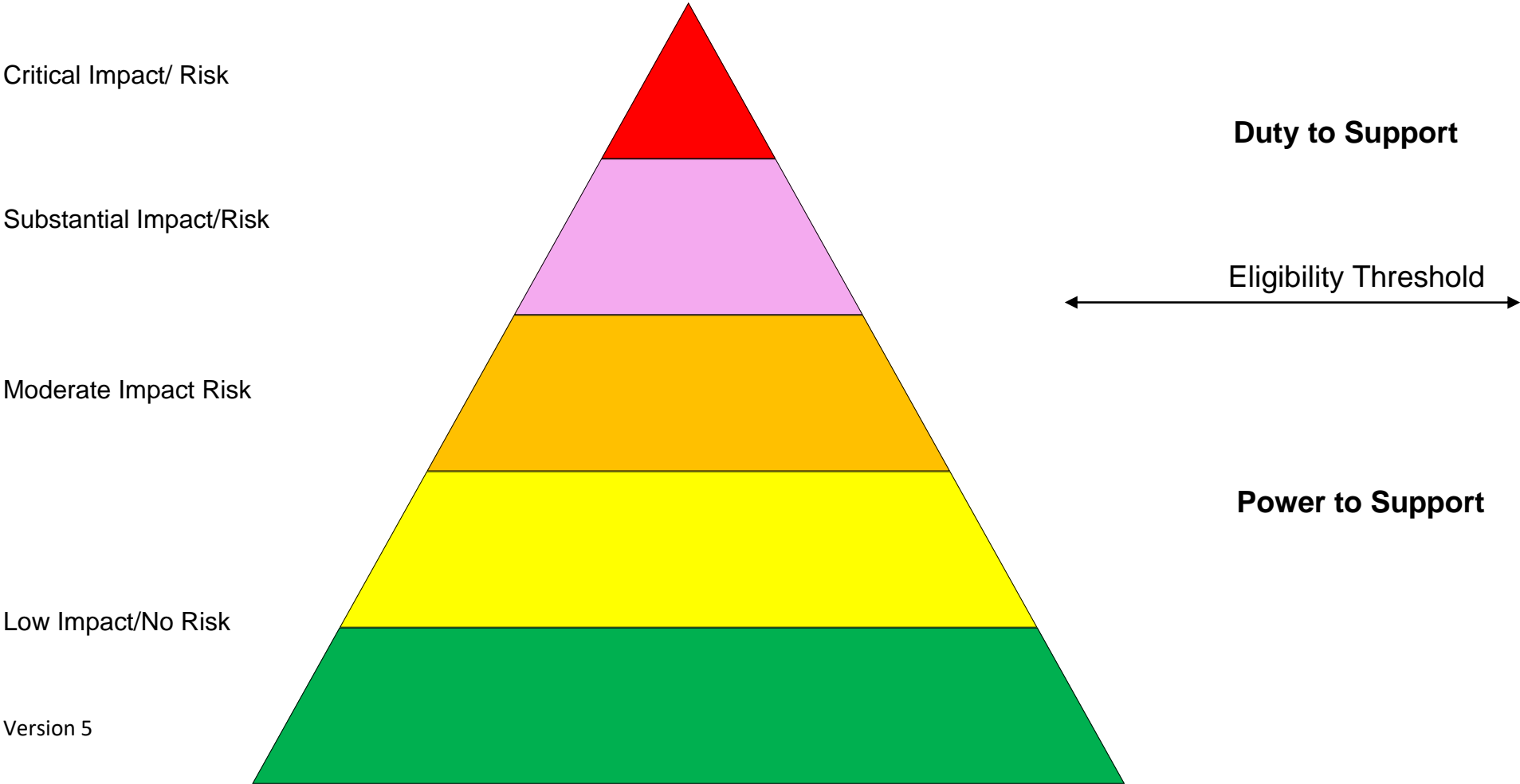
- Is the caring role sustainable?
- How great is the risk that the caring role will become unsustainable?

In Angus there is a duty to provide support when the level of impact (and risk) is “Critical” or “Substantial”. The aim is to reduce the impact to a manageable level for the carer. Carers can request a new Adult Carer Support Plan if they believe their circumstances have changed.

The eligibility triangle on Page 8 demonstrates the threshold in Angus. The tables which follow show how the impact will be defined for adult Carers.

The right type and level of support will be shaped by the identified needs and outcomes which, if achieved, would reduce the impact (and associated risks) of caring, enabling the carer to provide, or continue to provide care, if this is their wish.

5. Threshold for Determining the Level of Support.



6a Indicators Of Eligibility – Adult Carers.

Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 statutory guidance

National Indicator	Caring has no impact	Caring has low impact	Caring has moderate impact	Caring has substantial impact	Caring has critical impact
Adult Carers 1/2					
Lifestyle Balance	<p>I have regular opportunities to achieve the balance I want in my life.</p> <p>I have the choice of taking a break from caring and opportunities to take part in good things.</p>	<p>I have some opportunities to achieve the balance I want in my life.</p> <p>I have limited chances to take a break from caring and opportunities to take part in good things</p>	<p>Due to my caring role, I have limited opportunities to achieve the balance I want in my life.</p> <p>I have little chance to take a break from caring and opportunities to take part in good things</p>	<p>Due to my caring role, I have few/irregular opportunities to achieve the balance I want in my life.</p> <p>I have never had the chance to take a break from caring and opportunities to take part in good things</p>	<p>Due to my caring role, I have no opportunities to achieve the balance I want in my life.</p> <p>I have never considered having a break.</p>
Emotional Well Being	I have good emotional wellbeing.	My well-being is beginning to be affected.	There is some impact on my emotional wellbeing.	There is a significant impact on my emotional wellbeing	My emotional well-being is breaking/has broken down
Physical Health	I am in good health.	My caring role is beginning to have an impact on my physical wellbeing.	My health is at risk without intervention.	I have health needs that require attention.	My health is breaking/has broken down.
Finances	I have reasonable financial stability and my future finances seem ok.	My financial stability could be better, and my future finances are not as good as they could be.	I have some financial stability, but it is worrying, and my future finances seem to be at risk.	I have no financial stability and my future finances are unpredictable and worrying.	I have no financial stability and I am unable to afford household essentials and utilities/ am not meeting housing payments.

Employment, Study & Volunteering	I have no difficulty in managing caring and work and/or education. I do not want to be in paid work or education.	I have some difficulty managing caring and employment and there is a risk to continuing in work and/or education in the long term. I am not in paid work/ education but would like to be in the long term.	I have difficulty in managing caring and employment and there is a risk to continuing in work and/or education in the medium term. I am not in paid work/education but would like to be in the medium term.	I have significant difficulty managing caring and employment and there is a risk to continuing in work and/or education in the short term. I am not in paid work/ education but would like to be soon.	I have significant difficulty managing caring and work and/or education and there is an imminent risk of giving up work or education. I am not in paid work/education but would like to be now.
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National Indicators <u>Adult Carers 2/2</u>	Caring has no impact	Caring has low impact	Caring has moderate impact	Caring has substantial impact	Caring has critical impact
Living Environment	My living environment is suitable, posing no risk to the physical health and safety of myself and the cared for person/people.	My living environment is mostly suitable but could pose a risk to the health and safety of me and the cared for person/people in the longer term.	My living environment is unsuitable but poses no immediate risk.	My living environment is unsuitable and poses an immediate risk to the health and safety of myself and/or the cared for person/ people.	My living environment is unsuitable and there are immediate and critical risks to my health and safety and that of the cared for person/ people.
Relationships	My relationship with the person I care for is a good and I am able to maintain relationships with other key people in my life.	I have some concerns about my relationship with the person I care for and/or am able to maintain relationships with other key people in my life.	I have identified issues with my relationship with the person I care for that need to be addressed and/ or I find it difficult to maintain relationships with other key people in my life.	My relationship with the person I care for is in danger of breaking down and /or I am no longer able to maintain relationships with other key people in my life.	My relationship with the person I care for has broken down and my caring role is no longer sustainable and /or I have lost touch with other key people in my life.
Future Planning	I am confident about planning for the future and have no concerns about managing caring.	I am largely confident about planning for the future but have minor concerns about managing caring.	I am not confident about planning for the future and have some concerns about managing caring.	I am anxious about planning for the future and have significant concerns about managing caring.	I am very anxious about planning for the future and have severe concerns about managing caring.

7. Types of Support and Services

Where there is a **POWER to Support** this may include, but is not limited to, **universal or preventative services**.

Where there is a **DUTY to Support** more **targeted services** may be available in addition. **Carers may be signposted to external organisations for some of these services.**

Some examples of supports and services are:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• information and advice services• leisure activities/services• transport services.• welfare rights services (income maximisation services)• volunteer services.• drug and alcohol services• day opportunities• employability/return to work services• education services• advocacy services• training courses• counselling services• befriending services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• short breaks from caring (respite)• complementary social therapies• victim support services• moving/handling support• health and wellbeing services• community cafes and support• bereavement support services• emergency and future care planning• adult protection and child protection services• home adaptations• residential care placements• social care services
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N.B This list is not exhaustive. Appropriate support and services to meet identified needs and outcomes will be considered during the completion of the ACSP.

8. Summary of Framework for Adult Carers

Critical Impact/ Risk	Indicates that there is critical quality of life issues or there is a critical risk to the adult carer's health and wellbeing, and to their capacity to have a healthy life balance. There is likely to be a need for very urgent/ immediate provision of more targeted support and services.
Substantial Impact/ Risk	Indicates that there is significant quality of life issues or there is a substantial risk to the adult carer's health and wellbeing, and to their capacity to have a healthy life balance. There is likely to be a need for the relatively urgent provision of more targeted support and services.
Moderate Impact/ Risk	Indicates that there are some quality-of-life issues or there is a moderate risk to the adult carer's health and wellbeing, and to their capacity to have a healthy life balance. There is likely to be a need for provision of some support and services.
Low Impact/ Risk	Indicates that there is some minor quality of life issues. There is a low risk to the adult carer's health and wellbeing, and to their capacity to have a healthy life balance. There may be some need for universal and/ or preventative support or advice.
No Impact/ Risk	Indicates that there are no quality-of-life issues resulting from the caring situation. The adult carer's health and wellbeing is not at risk, and they are able to achieve a good life balance. They do not currently have any requirement for support or advice