

# LOCAL CARERS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

PERTH & KINROSS COUNCIL



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# 1. Introduction to the Eligibility Framework

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## Background

It is recognised that unpaid carers of all ages provide a vital contribution to society. For that reason, it is important that carers are given the support and access to services that they need. They should also have the opportunity to achieve a better life balance. In relation to young carers, it is vital that they are given the opportunity to be children first, carer second. Children should not take on inappropriate caring tasks or caring that is inconsistent with their age and maturity. Carers, and the people they support, must be at the centre of care planning. Therefore, carers will have the opportunity to define their own caring situation, what their needs are, and the support they need.

The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 comes in force from 1 April 2018. It introduces rights for adult and young unpaid carers to have Adult Carer Support Plans or Young Carer Statements respectively, which identify their needs and personal outcomes. It also imposes a duty on local authorities to ensure that support is given to carers to meet their needs and outcomes. Through the Carers (Scotland) Act, Perth & Kinross Council has a duty to support carers who meet the local eligibility criteria.

## 2. Definitions under the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016

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### **Meaning of “carer”**

A “carer” means an individual who either currently 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.

### **Meaning of “young carer”**

A young carer is a carer who is under 18 years old. It also includes carers who are 18 years old and is still in school.

### **Meaning of “adult carer”**

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

Please see Appendix 1 (page 15) for the actual wording of these definitions under the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016.

### 3. Our Aims and Clarification of Terms

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Perth & Kinross Council, NHS Tayside, the Health & Social Care Partnership and a range of voluntary organisations will work together with carers of all ages.

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The eligibility framework set out in this document, is drafted with the intention that staff will work **with** carers to **agree** on:

1. the carer's **needs** and **personal outcomes**, and
2. the **type and level of support** that needs to be given by Perth & Kinross Council to meet those needs and outcomes.

If the carer has identified **needs** for support, the caring role will have an **impact** on the carer and the sustainability of the caring role is at **risk** without support. Therefore, this framework tends towards a **preventative approach**. This means that support is not simply given to meet **current** needs based on the **current** impact of caring on the carer. Assessments should identify whether there is also a foreseeable and likely **risk** of deterioration in the carer's health or their caring situation. If identified, it should be noted the steps that will be taken to **prevent** further deterioration. In the case where the carer has fluctuating needs, Perth & Kinross Council should consider the carer's needs over an appropriate period of time to ensure that all their needs have been accounted for when eligibility is being determined.

The needs and outcomes of the carer is measured against the eligibility framework to determine the level of support to be given. This will ensure that the correct level of support is given at the appropriate time. By setting out clear needs and outcomes, the support given will be outcome focussed. This will allow change to be measured clearly when the adult carer support plan or the young carer statement is next reviewed.

Under the Carers (Scotland) Act, the local authority sometimes has a “**duty**” to support and other times a “**power**” to support. These terms are used throughout this document. These terms used within the framework has the following meanings:

1. Perth & Kinross Council has a **duty to support** when it is recognised that the carer has support needs so great that Perth & Kinross Council **MUST** provide support to the carer to meet these needs.
2. Perth & Kinross Council has a **power to support** when it is recognised that the carer has caring responsibilities and may have some support needs. Perth & Kinross Council or the responsibility authority **SHOULD** use its power to provide support to the carer depending on the needs of the carer and the range of support services available.

Generally, the level of support given to the carer is based on the carer’s level of need for support. A carer may have different support needs in different areas in their lives. This is reflected in the eligibility criteria framework (see page 12). This would mean that Perth & Kinross Council will have a duty to support those needs of the carer that fall into the high or critical impact/risk categories. Perth & Kinross Council will then have the power to support any other needs of the carer that falls into the low or moderate impact/risk categories.

The framework creates a fair and transparent system for determining eligibility. It is designed so that the Perth & Kinross Council’s level of support is proportionate and consistent with the carer’s level of support needs. Carers with different needs will be treated equally in accessing support and services.

## 4. Explaining the Assessment Process

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The assessment process to agree on the level of support to be given to a carer can be broken down into four steps:

### Step One

A carer who wishes to access support can be offered, or they request, an Adult Carer Support Plan or a Young Carer Statement. This will involve conversations between staff (for example, support workers, the health board, or another suitably qualified professional) and the carer to discuss the carer's needs, their caring situation and their personal outcomes. Together, the staff member and the carer will agree on the type and level of support the carer needs to best achieve their personal outcomes.

### Step Two

The carer's needs and outcomes will be identified in the carer's Adult Carers Support Plan or Young Carers Statement, as well as the actions (if any) needed to support the carer. The level of support given by the responsible authority to the carer depends on the level of the carer's needs. The level of the carer's needs, measured against the eligibility framework (see page 12) will determine the level of support provided to the carer.

### Step Three

If the caring situation has a high or critical impact/risk on the carer in accordance with the eligibility framework (see page 12), this will impose a *duty* on Perth & Kinross Council to provide support to the carer. Perth & Kinross Council must provide support to meet the identified needs and outcomes of the carer in Step Two.

On the other hand, if the caring situation has low or moderate impact/risk on the carer in accordance with the eligibility framework (see page 12), this provides Perth & Kinross Council with the *power* to provide support to the carer. This means Perth & Kinross Council should provide support to meet the identified needs and outcomes of the carer (if any needs or outcomes are identified) in Step Two.

In most situations, carers should have access to universal and/or preventative services. Carers may be signposted to specific services. For examples of types of the services that can be offered to meet the needs of the carer, see page 10-11.

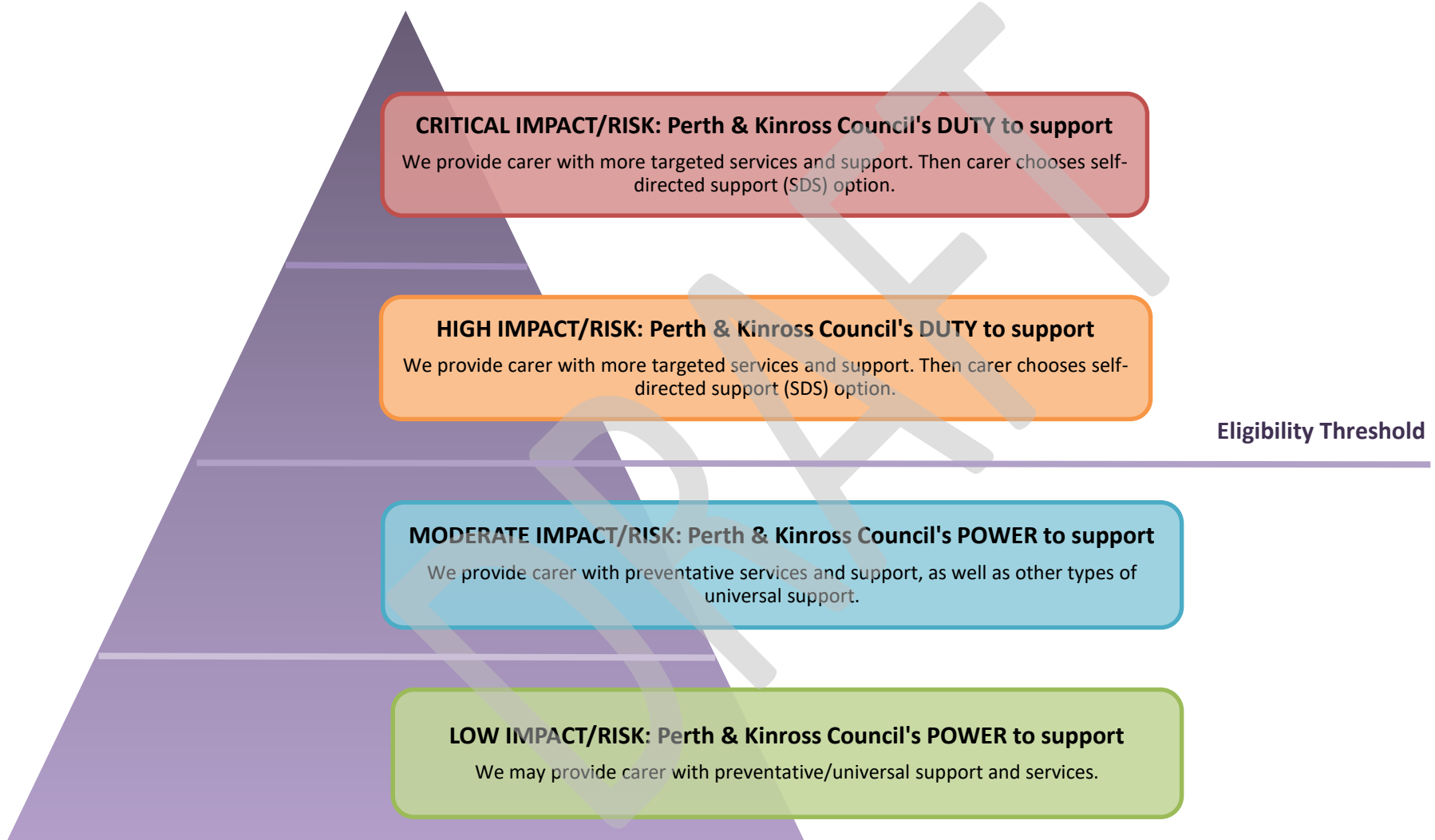
#### **Step Four**

Once the level of support has been agreed, the carer will then decide how they would prefer to arrange their support. The carer will also choose from the four self-directed support options allowing them to control how the money is spent on their support. These include choosing to have a direct payment, directing the available support, Perth & Kinross Council arranging support for the cared-for person, or a mixture of these options. Carers will be involved in each stage of the process and in all decision making. A future review date for the Adult Carer Support Plan or Young Carer Statement will be set at this point.



## 5. Eligibility Thresholds: Overview of the Assessment

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## 6. Eligibility Thresholds: Types of Services and Support

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### Local Authority's POWER to Support

Support given to carer under this category may include, but is not limited to, ***universal or preventative services*** such as:

- information and advice services
- leisure activities/services
- transport services
- welfare rights services (income maximisation services)
- volunteer services
- drug and alcohol services
- day care services
- employability/return to work services
- youth clubs/services
- education services
- advocacy services
- training courses
- counselling services
- befriending services
- 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

Carers may be signposted to external organisations for some of these services.

## Local Authority's DUTY to Support

Support and services provided under DUTY to support may also include any listed under POWER to support (above). In addition, support to a carer under this category may include, but is not limited to, more **targeted services** such as:

- more regular short breaks/respite care
- adult protection services
- home adaptations
- residential care placements
- social care services

Carers may be signposted to external organisations for some of these services.

## 7. Eligibility Criteria Framework

	POWER TO SUPPORT			DUTY TO SUPPORT	
	No Impact/Risk	Low Impact/Risk	Moderate Impact/Risk	High Impact/Risk	Critical Impact/Risk
Health & Wellbeing	Caring has no impact on carer's health or wellbeing. Carer's health is not at risk.	Caring has some negative impact on carer's health and wellbeing. Carer's health has low risk of deterioration.	Caring has a negative impact on carer's health and wellbeing. Carer's health is at risk of deterioration.	Caring has a very negative impact on carer's health and wellbeing. Carer's health is at risk of significant or rapid deterioration.	Caring has a severely negative impact on carer's health and wellbeing. Carer is in a very vulnerable position and carer's health has broken down or is at risk of a complete breakdown.
Relationship	Carer has a good relationship with the cared-for person. <b>And/Or</b> Carer feels acknowledged and valued by health and social care professionals.	Carer's relationship with the cared-for person is beginning to have problems. <b>And/Or</b> Carer mostly feels acknowledged and valued by health and social care professionals.	Carer finds certain aspects of caring role difficult to sustain, and this has some negative impact on carer's relationship with the cared-for person. <b>And/Or</b> Carer sometimes feels acknowledged and valued by health and social care professionals.	Carer finds many aspects of caring role difficult to sustain, and this has a negative impact on carer's relationship with the cared-for person. <b>And/Or</b> Carer rarely feels acknowledged and valued by health and social care professionals.	Carer finds most or all aspects of caring role difficult to sustain, and/or feels unable to continue caring at all. Carer's relationship with the cared-for person is at risk of breaking down, or has already broken down. <b>And/Or</b> Carer feels isolated and excluded by health and social care professionals.
Employment, Education, and/or Training	Carer is able to manage caring alongside work/studies. <b>Or</b> Carer does not want to be in paid work or education.	Carer experiences some difficulties managing caring with work/studies, which may be difficult to sustain in the long term. <b>Or</b> Carer wants to be in paid work or education in the long term.	Carer experiences difficulty in managing caring with work/studies, which is likely to be difficult to sustain in the medium term. <b>Or</b> Carer wants to be in paid work or education in the medium term.	Carer experiences significant difficulty in managing caring with work/studies, which is likely to be difficult to sustain in the short term. <b>Or</b> Carer wants to be in paid work or education soon.	Carer is unable to manage caring alongside work/studies at all and faces an imminent risk of giving up work/studies, or has already given them up. <b>Or</b> Carer wants to be in paid work or education now.
Finances	Caring does not cause carer to be in financial hardship.	Caring has a low impact on carer's finances but may have some difficulty meeting some costs.	Caring has some impact on carer's finances. Carer struggles to meet some basic costs of living (e.g. housing costs OR utilities) or there is a risk of this happening.	Caring has a substantial impact on carer's finances. Carer has difficulty meeting many basic costs of living (e.g. housing costs AND utilities) or there is a risk of this happening.	Carer feels financially overwhelmed and is in severe financial hardship. Carer is unable to meet basic costs of living or there is an imminent risk of this happening.
Living Environment	Carer's living environment is suitable and poses no risk to the health and safety of the carer and/or cared-for person.	Carer's living environment is mostly suitable, but could pose a risk to the health and safety of the carer and/or cared-for person in the long term.	Carer's living environment is unsuitable but poses no immediate risk.	Carer's living environment is unsuitable, and poses an immediate risk to the health and safety of the carer and/or cared-for person.	Carer's living environment is unsuitable, and there are immediate and critical risks to the health and safety of the carer and/or cared-for person.
Life Balance	Carer is satisfied with their life balance. Carer has regular opportunities to take breaks from caring and to take part in things they want. Carer feels supported and is able to plan their time and their future.	Carer mostly feels they have life balance. Carer has some opportunities to take breaks from caring and to take part in things they want. Carer feels they have some support. Carer is mostly able to plan their time and their future.	Carer sometimes feels they do not have life balance. Carer has few opportunities to take breaks from caring and to take part in things they want. Carer sometimes feels they lack support or people to turn to. Carer is sometimes able to plan their time but may be concerned about future plans.	Carer mostly feels they do not have life balance. Carer has very few and irregular opportunities to take breaks from caring and to take part in things they want. Carer often feels unsupported, and that there is a lack of people they could turn to. Carer is often unable to plan their time or to make plans for their future.	Carer does not feel they have life balance. Carer has no opportunities to take breaks from caring and to take part in things they want. Carer feels isolated, and do not have people to turn to in their locality. Carer is unable to plan their time or to make plans for their future.

## 8. Summary of Framework for Adult Carers

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<b>Critical Impact/Risk</b>	Indicates that there are 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 need for very urgent/immediate provision of more targeted social care services.
<b>High Impact/Risk</b>	Indicates that there are significant quality of life issues or there is a high risk to the adult carer's health and wellbeing, and to their capacity to have a healthy life balance. There is likely to be need for relatively urgent provision of more targeted health and social care services.
<b>Moderate Impact/Risk</b>	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 need for provision of some health and social care services.
<b>Low Impact/Risk</b>	Indicates that there are 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.
<b>No Impact/Risk</b>	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.

## 9. Summary of Framework for Young Carers

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<b>Critical Impact/Risk</b>	Indicates that there are critical quality of life issues resulting from the caring situation for the young carer. There is a critical risk to the carer's health and wellbeing, or to their ability to have continued healthy growth and development. There is likely to be need for very urgent or immediate provision of more targeted support and services.
<b>High Impact/Risk</b>	Indicates that there are significant quality of life issues resulting from the caring situation for the young carer. There is a high risk to the carer's health and wellbeing, or to their ability to have continued healthy growth and development. There is likely to be need for relatively urgent provision of more targeted support and services.
<b>Moderate Impact/Risk</b>	Indicates that there are some quality of life issues resulting from the caring situation for the young carer. There is a moderate risk to the carer's health and wellbeing, or to their ability to have continued healthy growth and development. There is likely to be need for provision of some support and services.
<b>Low Impact/Risk</b>	Indicates that there are some minor quality of life issues resulting from the caring situation for the young carer. In general, caring has low impact or risk to their health and wellbeing or to their continued growth and development. However, there may be some need for universal and/or preventative support or advice.
<b>No Impact/Risk</b>	Indicates that there are no quality of life issues resulting from the caring situation for the young carer. The carer's health and wellbeing is not at risk. They feel supported and continues to have healthy growth and development.

### 1. Meaning of “carer”

- (1) *In this Act “carer” means an individual who provides or intends to provide care for another individual (the “cared-for person”).*
- (2) *But subsection (1) does not apply—*
- a) in the case of a cared-for person under 18 years old, to the extent that the care is or would be provided by virtue of the person's age, or*
  - b) in any case, to the extent that the care is or would be provided—*
    - i) under or by virtue of a contract, or*
    - ii) as voluntary work.*
- (3) *The Scottish Ministers may by regulations—*
- a) provide that “contract” in subsection (2)(b)(i) does or, as the case may be, does not include agreements of a kind specified in the regulations,*
  - b) permit a relevant authority to disregard subsection (2)(b) where the authority considers that the relationship between the carer and the cared-for person is such that it would be appropriate to do so.*
- (4) *In this Part “relevant authority” means a responsible local authority or a responsible authority (see section 41(1)).*

### 2. Meaning of “young carer”

*In this Act “young carer” means a carer who—*

- (a) is under 18 years old, or*
- (b) has attained the age of 18 years while a pupil at a school, and has since attaining that age remained a pupil at that or another school.*

### 3. Meaning of “adult carer”

*In this Act “adult carer” means a carer who is at least 18 years old but is not a young carer.*