

Carers Parliament 2018 – Summary of issues raised in debate

Introduction

The Carers Parliament 2018 was an opportunity for carers from across Scotland to have their voices heard by the Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing, the Chief Executive of NHS Scotland, CoSLA and the Cabinet Secretary for Social Security and Older People. Scottish Government (SG) officials from a number of policy areas also attended to hear and take points away.

The Carers Parliament debated the motion:

“The Carers Parliament believes that carers are central to shaping the future of adult and child health and social care to meet the growing needs of our populations and, that adult and young carers have a wealth of knowledge, skills and experience which are vital to helping shape the way forward”

This document summarises the main issues raised in that debate (without drawing on individual cases and experiences that were shared on the day) and provides information on relevant Scottish Government actions and signposting to sources of information.

Overall, this debate was focused on carers’ place in shaping the future of health and social care at a time when the Scottish Government is working with CoSLA and others to develop a national programme to support local reform of adult social care. A major benefit of the debate was therefore to have carers inform our thinking on the priorities for the future of social care.

Issue	Specific points	Scottish Government actions and signposting
Recognition and Expectations of Carers		
European perspectives	<p>Issues for carers are common across Europe e.g. Ageing populations/ long term conditions/ shortage of paid carers</p> <p>Scotland is seen as advanced in terms of the systems in place/ recognition of carers</p>	<p>We recognise that countries across the world are facing similar challenges in terms of social care and demographic changes. We are looking at other countries’ approaches to these issues to inform our thinking on the future of social care in Scotland.</p>

<p>Reliance on carers</p>	<p>In planning for the future of health and social care we should not assume that carers will be available or willing to support every person with care needs</p>	<p>Scots are enjoying longer lives and with that comes often more complex care needs. This means that demand for social care is growing faster than our traditional services were designed for. That is why we are working with CoSLA and others to develop a national programme to support local reform of adult social care.</p> <p>We have been engaging with people who use social care support, local and national organisations, professionals and individuals to get their views and input to developing the programme. This has included all of the national carers organisations. These conversations have helped us to understand carers' concerns and proposals about the role of unpaid carers in the future of health and social care in Scotland.</p> <p>One of the two key leadership groups for the programme is the People-led Policy Panel. The Panel consists of 50 members with a core group of 19 who meet more regularly. All members are people who have lived experience of adult social care support, and both the wider Panel and core group include carers. At the moment, we are working with the Panel and a group of leaders in the social care system to determine what the national programme will focus on. They are drawing on evidence and views about what the current system is like and what needs to change for the future. This evidence has been contributed by people, carers, and organisations with a range of backgrounds and perspectives. Co-producing the programme in this way will help ensure that carers' expertise and insight prevent unrealistic assumptions being made in the support or development of models of care for the future.</p> <p>The cost of care and how care is paid for is something we expect will be a key focus for the programme. Over the coming months we will be telling more of the story of how the reform programme is being developed, and keeping people up to date on what the priorities for it are, the changes it is aiming to achieve, and how we intend to work together with people and the sector to make those changes happen.</p>
<p>Carers rights</p>	<p>Limited awareness of carers' rights under Carers Act</p>	<p>We and the Carers Act Implementation Steering Group (ISG) agree this is a priority. All ISG members have agreed to support communications and we are discussing the best approach. Existing resources widely used include the Carers' charter, 'What to expect' leaflets and Young Scot infographic on the Act.</p>

Caring as a gender issue	More carers are female. It is still assumed that women will give up work to care	<p>We recognise this issue and are working to address it.</p> <p>Our overall aim is to support carers to protect their health and wellbeing, so they can continue to care if they so wish and have a life beyond caring. When assessing the care needs of a cared-for person, authorities must take account of the level of care the carer is willing or intends to provide. The statutory guidance for the Carers Act makes it clear there should be no assumption that current or potential carers are willing and able to care.</p> <p>Some carers may want to adjust the balance of their paid employment and caring roles as their personal caring situations change. The statistics suggest that a larger proportion of women are in this position. The newly published A Fairer Scotland for Women: Gender Pay Gap Action Plan recognises the labour market inequalities women with unpaid caring responsibilities experience. Flexible working policies are vital in supporting carers to maintain meaningful employment, instead of feeling pressured to give up work altogether. Such changes should always be a personal choice. There should be no assumption that carers are willing or able to adjust their working patterns to accommodate caring.</p> <p>See action on employment below.</p>
Carer Voice and Involvement		
Carer empowerment	Carers should be seen as an asset in society, and empowered to shape change	<p>We agree. We recognise the vital contribution carers make to society and particularly to the health and social care system. We agree they must be fully involved in shaping change. This is why we brought in the Carers Act. It is also why the Act requires carer involvement in strategic decision making as well as in the individual decisions about particular carers and the people they cared for.</p>
Carer involvement in strategic planning	Carer involvement in strategic planning is vital	<p>We agree. Effective carer involvement in strategic planning is vital. Carer involvement is therefore a key priority in the ongoing implementation plan for the Carers Act</p> <p>Local authorities/integration authorities have a duty to involve carers and carer representatives in local strategic planning of services, health and social care strategic planning and in the development of local carer strategies, local eligibility criteria and short breaks services statements. See section 5 of Carers' charter.</p> <p>Carer representatives sit on IJBs and are supported through the Carers Collaborative forum, run by Coalition of Carers in Scotland and funded by SG.</p>

		Local carers centres or local authority are best placed to advise on how to find out more or get involved.
Carers voices in decisions about the cared-for person	Vital that professionals listen to carers of all ages in decisions about cared for person, including in health settings	We agree. The Carers Act creates rights for all carers to be involved in decisions about the assessment of the cared-for person's needs and their discharge from hospital. See sections 5 and 6 of Carers' charter . We and the Carers Act Implementation Steering Group agree that awareness of carers' rights among both carers and professionals are priority issues. See workforce actions below.
Young carer voice	Young carers and young adult carers often not taken seriously by professionals in conversations and decisions about the cared-for person	We are working to address this issue. As above, the Carers Act requires authorities to involve carers in strategic and individual level decision making. This includes involving carers of all ages.
Integration Joint Boards (IJBs)	Calls for voting rights for carer reps on Integration Joint Boards	The Ministerial Strategic Group for Health and Community Care has overseen a Review of Progress with Integration of Health and Social Care. This concluded on the 4 th February when a review paper was published that includes a set of proposals to ensure the success of integration and to improve outcomes for people using health and social care services. One of these proposals is to support IJBs to adopt an open and inclusive approach to collective decision making – in line with good practice. This will include action to ensure carer representatives are supported to enable meaningful engagement with carers.
Health and Social Care and Support		
Complex systems	Inability of the social care system to be flexible/changed Complexity around navigating the system	We recognise the concern about complexity. Many of the individuals and organisations we have been speaking with about the reform of adult social care have talked about the complexity of the current system and the impact this is having on people accessing support, unpaid carers, and paid workers in social work and social care. The national reform programme that we are co-developing (see above) will look to work with and address this, through the perspectives and experiences of people who are using and working in the current system.

		<p>In addition to this, we are funding 30 local organisations across Scotland through the Support in the Right Direction 2021 programme. These organisations are there to help people navigate the social care system and decide what they want and need from social care. We have extended this programme to help people with support needs and carers make informed decisions about, and plan for, their social care.</p> <p>Whether someone is a supported person or a carer, these organisations will work with them to get the best from their care and support. More information about this, and a tool to help people find out which organisation can help them, is on the Self-directed Support Scotland website. (Click on the link and then on the button ‘get help’. Complete the two questions to indicate whether you are a supported person or carer and what kind of support you are looking for, and then enter your postcode.)</p> <p>See also the action on self-directed support below.</p>
<p>Carers Act funding</p>	<p>Concerns about Carers Act funding having not been passed to HSCPs or diverted to other pressures</p> <p>Calls for ringfencing or re-allocation via Health Boards</p>	<p>The Carers Act places legal duties on local authorities and integration authorities to provide additional support and services to unpaid carers. The Scottish Government has provided funding to enable the delivery of these duties and meet the projected increase in demand.</p> <p>The projected costs of the Carers Act are set out in the Financial Memorandum which estimated expenditure for local authorities and integration authorities in 2018/19 to be £17.4 million and £27.9 million in 2019/20.</p> <p>In 2018/19 the Scottish Government provided an additional £66 million to Local Government to support the delivery of the Carers Act and the Living Wage for social care workers. That funding has been baselined in the 2019/20 budget – meaning that it now forms a permanent additional element of funding in the Local Government settlement. Our 2019/20 budget includes £160 million of additional health and care investment in local authorities –to support social care, the Carers Act, and mental health services, including those delivered by integration authorities. Taking this into account, alongside the legal duties and the projected increase in demand under the Carers Act, we would expect to see budgets for the Carers Act increasing by £10.5 million in 2019/20 compared to the funding for 2018/19.</p> <p>To support transparency on the allocation and use of the total £160 million funding, and to provide assurance that these conditions are met, in quarter one of 2019-20 we will require further information from health and social care partnerships.</p>

Short breaks	<p>Calls for a new right to short breaks</p> <p>Concerns about lack of suitable short break facilities in certain areas for people with some care needs</p>	<p>We recognise the key importance of short breaks in protecting the health and wellbeing of carers.</p> <p>This is recognised in the Carers Act. When authorities are preparing adult carer support plans and young carer statements they always have to consider whether the carer needs a break from caring. The rights of carers to support depend on eligibility criteria set locally. Where the carer's need for a break meets eligibility criteria, the Act requires the authority to provide support for the break.</p> <p>The Act also requires authorities to publish short breaks services statements with information on short break options available in the area. Authorities also have to prepare local carer strategies covering, among other things, support available to carers in their area, the effectiveness of that support and any areas of unmet need.</p> <p>We are working with Healthcare Improvement Scotland, Coalition of Carers in Scotland and Shared Care Scotland to work alongside health and social care partnerships to ensure there are the right range of short break options locally and how they can shape their local social care market.</p>
Self-directed support (SDS)	<p>Concerns about awareness of SDS, consistency between areas, and difficulty putting packages in place</p>	<p>We are on a journey to embed self-directed support as Scotland's approach to social care. This gives people who receive social care more control over their support, and ensures social care respects their right to participate in society. Scottish Government is currently developing a new national self-directed support implementation plan 2019-21.</p> <p>Assessment processes, application of eligibility criteria and the way in which people's budgets are calculated vary across Scotland as they are set locally. We agree that more consistency between areas would help people to understand social care, and to move between areas more easily. How services and support are planned, designed, developed, commissioned and delivered is key to reform, and the national programme mentioned above will be a vehicle for developing collective leadership of this agenda.</p>
Workforce	<p>Concerns about professionals' awareness of carers' rights, status and needs</p>	<p>We agree that awareness of carers and their rights across the workforce is vital and we are working to address this issue.</p> <p>We and the Carers Act Implementation Steering Group agree this is a priority. This is reflected in the ongoing implementation plan for the Carers Act.</p>

		<p>We are working with a variety of partners to develop and disseminate training resources for staff in health, social care and education.</p> <p><i>Health:</i> We have funded 14 NHS board pilots across Scotland looking at approaches to carer involvement in hospital discharge. NHS Education Scotland will evaluate and share practice from these. We are also funding NHS Education Scotland and Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) to update the Equal Partners in Care (EPiC) online training module on carer involvement for all professionals.</p> <p><i>Social Care:</i> We commissioned SSSC to develop a personal outcomes training resource to support all social care staff and are funding ongoing work to promote and disseminate the work.</p> <p><i>Education:</i> We have funded a part time post with Carers Trust Scotland to raise awareness of young carers and develop and promote resources amongst education professionals to help them understand their role in supporting the young carers in their classrooms.</p>
Adult carer support plans (ACSP)	Concerns about delays in carrying out ACSPs in some areas	<p>There are transitional provisions in place to ensure a smooth transition from the old carers assessment regime to the new system of adult carer support plans and young carer statements under the Carers Act. This aims to ensure continuity of support for existing carers without having to move all carers to the new system on day 1. This will mean that many existing carers will not yet have been offered an ACSP unless they have asked for one or their circumstances have changed. The backstop for moving all adult carers onto the new system is April 2021. The backstop for young carers is April 2019.</p> <p>In relation to new carers, the Carers Act guidance states that “ACSPs ought to be prepared within reasonable timescales taking into account the urgency of needs for support and any fluctuation in those needs”.</p> <p>Authorities must publish intended ACSP timescales in their local carer strategies.</p>
Training for Carers	Value and importance of carer training was highlighted	<p>We recognise the importance of training to many carers. This is reflected in the Carers Act, which requires local carer information and advice services to provide information and advice on carer training and education.</p> <p>Preparing an adult carer support plan or young carer statement will involve a conversation about what the carer needs in order to meet their personal goals. If those needs include</p>

		training, support for that training may be provided as a consequence of the adult carer support plan or young carer statement.
Cared-for Person	<p>Questions about support for people needing care who do not have family/carers?</p> <p>Concern that cared-for people feel like a “burden” on their carer</p>	<p>Individuals’ rights to support depends on their assessed needs and the eligibility criteria set locally.</p> <p>Those needs for support are likely to reflect the level of support they receive from family and friends, however the guidance for the Carers Act makes it clear there should be no assumption that current or potential carers are willing and able to care.</p> <p>Getting this right requires good, person-centred conversations involving both the carer and the cared-for person, facilitated by a professional.</p> <p>See also actions under workforce.</p>
Beyond Health and Social Care: Income, Employment, Social Security, Housing, Community		
Isolation and loneliness	Caring as an isolating factor	<p>We recognise this issue and are working to address it.</p> <p>A focus of the Carers Act is about protecting the wellbeing of carers by supporting them to have lives beyond caring.</p> <p>We have worked with colleagues developing Scotland’s new social isolation and loneliness strategy, A Connected Scotland, to ensure that carers and carer-specific issues are recognised and addressed within the narrative and the context of carer social isolation and loneliness.</p> <p>See also work on employment noted below.</p>
Social Security	<p>Carer’s Allowance eligibility criteria – especially earnings threshold and hours in education</p> <p>Access to Carer’s Allowance when you are a pensioner</p>	<p>The views expressed at the Carers Parliament, including those on Carer’s Allowance eligibility criteria such as the earnings threshold, and for full time students and pensioners, echo those we have heard through our consultation on social security, and will be taken into account as we develop our longer term plans for Carer’s Allowance.</p> <p>Our priority in taking on full responsibility for all the devolved benefits is a safe and secure transition so that people continue to receive support at the right time and right amount.</p> <p>While pensioners are eligible to receive Carer’s Allowance, most are in receipt of the State Pension which is usually considerably higher than the level of Carer’s Allowance, even with</p>

		the new 13% supplement in Scotland. As a result, the majority have only underlying entitlement. Carers on low incomes with underlying entitlement may be entitled to additional financial support from DWP in recognition of their caring role.
Employment	Pressure/expectation to reduce hours or give up work in order to care	<p>We recognise the multiple benefits to carers, businesses and the wider economy of supporting carers to remain in employment alongside their caring roles. That is why we fund and promote the Carer Positive accreditation scheme, delivered by Carers Scotland to encourage more employers to adopt carer-friendly employment practices.</p> <p>Scotland's new Fair Work Action Plan also recognises the importance of supporting employees juggling work and care.</p> <p>See also action on Gender and caring above.</p>
Housing	The need for more accessible housing	<p>We recognise this issue and are working to address it.</p> <p>A Fairer Scotland for Disabled People Delivery Plan sets out a number of housing related actions including: ensuring each local authority sets a realistic target for the delivery of wheelchair accessible housing, across all tenures and reports annually on progress.</p> <p>We are developing practical guidance for local authorities, to support them in setting targets for the delivery of wheelchair accessible housing across all tenures. This will be available in early 2019.</p> <p>We are currently refreshing the Local Housing Strategy guidance and expect to publish the revised guidance in early 2019.</p> <p>We will continue to ensure that the grant subsidy arrangements for the Affordable Housing Supply Programme do not prevent specialist housing identified by local authorities as a priority from being built.</p> <p>We are building homes that are sufficiently flexible to meet the needs of people as they change over time. Latest available statistics show that 99% of homes built by housing associations and councils in 2017-18 met Housing for Varying Needs Standards.</p>
Young people's mental health	Schools are struggling to support young carers	Mental health is just as important as physical health and we recognise that, right now, support for our children and young people in particular is not good enough. We are committed to changing that.

and CAMH services	with mental health problems Access to CAMH services is a challenge	<p>Long waits for CAMH services treatment and support are unacceptable. That's why we set out in the 2018 Programme for Government a package of measures, backed with an additional £250m, to do more to support positive mental health and prevent ill health. Scotland's Mental Health Strategy 2017-27 sets out further actions on CAMH services and support in schools.</p> <p>We know that specialist clinical services are not the whole answer, and other services in young people's lives are vital to providing practical and emotional support, including education, social work and the third sector. We and CoSLA have therefore established the Children and Young People's Taskforce to examine our whole approach to mental health services; and develop a blueprint for how services and support can better meet the rapidly changing need across Scotland.</p> <p>We have also funded a Youth Commission on mental health, which is being delivered in partnership between SAMH and Young Scotland. The Commission was formally launched on 26 April 2018, and will provide recommendations to Ministers on the way forward for CAMH services and support.</p>
Young Carers		
Young carers - identification	Young carers often not identified until crisis is reached	<p>We agree that young carer identification and support is a priority.</p> <p>Provisions in the Carers Act, such as offering a young carer statement to all identified young carers, aim to prevent young carers from reaching crisis point. Duties such as carer involvement in hospital discharge under the Act apply for young carers as well as adult carers.</p> <p>We are often told that schools and education settings are the best place to identify young carers. See also education actions under workforce above.</p>
Young carers' voice		See Carer Voice and Involvement above.
Young carers support	Concerns about not enough support for young carers and	Young carers have rights under the Carers Act. The Carers' charter and the Young Scot infographic on the Act, as well as the Carers Trust Scotland jargon-buster are helpful resources to understand those rights.

	money worries around ages 14 to 16.	<p>A new package of support for young was announced by the First Minister in September 2017. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of a Young Carer Grant, to be delivered by autumn 2019. This is a £300 grant for young carers aged 16-17 (and 18 if still at school), with significant caring responsibilities who do not receive Carer's Allowance; • Free concessionary bus travel for young carers in receipt of the Young Carer Grant, following successful piloting from 2020-21; and • A package of non-cash rewards and discounts, designed by and for young carers aged 11-18, delivered through the Young Scot National Entitlement Card to be launched in June 2019.
Young carers - education	Awareness of young carers amongst education professionals.	<p>We agree awareness of young carers in schools and education settings is vital.</p> <p>A sub-group of the Carers Act Implementation Steering Group advised on actions for raising awareness amongst education professionals in supporting identification and awareness of young carers and their rights. We will reconvene this group after the work has been completed to understand any further gaps.</p> <p>See also education actions under workforce above.</p>
Young carers – transitions	<p>Young carers at college not getting advice or training</p> <p>Money difficulties at this stage.</p>	<p>We understand that times of transition can be challenging for young carers, especially when they are moving away from school and into employment or higher or further education.</p> <p>The Carers Act makes provision for the young carer statement, and any support provided under it, to continue until an adult carer support plan is put in place.</p> <p>Each local authority area must have an information and advice service for carers which must cover, amongst other things, advice on education and training for carers and income maximisation.</p> <p>See also young carers support above.</p>
Carer groups		
Young adult carers	Young adult carers have distinct needs	<p>We recognise that young adult carers will often have distinct needs from older carers and young carers. Similarly parent carers of disabled children will often have distinct needs from carers of people with fluctuating mental ill health. The Carers Act addresses this wide variation in needs through personalisation, by focusing on the personal outcomes and</p>

		<p>personal needs of the individual carer when preparing ACSPs and YCSs, rather than by establishing a one size fits all approach to support.</p>
Mental health carers	<p>Carers need to be respected and involved in decisions around their cared-for person's care and treatment in relation to their mental health.</p>	<p>We understand the importance of carer involvement in decisions around their cared-for person's care, and that there can be particular challenges regarding this in mental health settings.</p> <p>The Carers Act brought in new rights for carers to be involved in decisions about the hospital discharge of the cared-for person. Further information can be found at section 6 of the Carers' charter.</p> <p>The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland recently published a good practice guide, Carers & Confidentiality which covers this often challenging aspect of involving carers in decision making about someone else's care and support.</p> <p>We have published a booklet summarising carers' rights of under The Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003.</p> <p>We are also funding the Triangle of Care project, run by Carers Trust Scotland, which seeks to implement a national approach and resources on carer involvement in decision-making for their cared-for person within mental health settings.</p>
Carers of people with addictions	<p>Inadequate support for families and carers supporting someone with an addiction.</p> <p>Some carers of people with addictions have experienced stigma from staff in health settings</p>	<p>We recognise the particular pressures facing carers of people with addictions.</p> <p>Within our Strategy, Rights, Respect and Recovery we have taken a whole family approach and promote family inclusive practice within all our services.</p> <p>Scottish Families provide support to families across Scotland, through their telephone helpline, telehealth service, family support groups and also bereavement work, which can provide professional counselling sessions</p> <p>We fund the Family Recovery Initiative Fund (FRIF) in conjunction with Corra and Scottish Families Affected by Drugs & Alcohol (SFAD) providing grants to groups looking to support families affected by a loved one's drug or alcohol use.</p> <p>We aim to tackle stigma and trauma informed approaches, at all levels within all alcohol and drug services, as well as those within the wider recovery oriented system of care, for example primary care, hospital services, dental services etc.</p>

<p>Parent carers: transitions into adulthood for young disabled people</p>	<p>Parents have experienced a “cliff edge” when supporting children from children’s to adult services</p>	<p>We recognise that transitions into adult services, employment or further or higher education can be particularly problematic for young adults with additional support needs and the families supporting them. We are committed to ensuring young people have the support they need to participate fully in society and as they make important transitions in their journey towards adulthood.</p> <p>We have supported production of Principles of Good Transitions 3, to encourage improvement of support for transitioning young people with additional needs.</p> <p>Our newly published A Fairer Scotland for Disabled People : Employment Action Plan. recognises the specific challenges disabled young people and their parents/carers face as they transition from school across a range of areas including health, education, social care and employability. It commits to cross-government action to address these challenges.</p> <p>Further work to support children and young people with a learning disability is being considered as part of the forthcoming framework for our learning disability strategy The keys to life.</p> <p>We set out our commitment to autistic people and their families through the Scottish Strategy for Autism, focused on outcomes to ensure autistic people live healthier lives, enjoy choice and control over services, and are supported to be independent and active citizens. In 2018 we published our priorities through to 2021.</p> <p>Scottish Autism, a national Scottish charity, operates an autism advice line staffed by advisors who are trained and experienced in working with autistic people.</p> <p>The National Autistic Society’s autism services directory details services and supports for autistic people in their local area.</p>
<p>Parent carers: Education</p>	<p>Parents and disabled children experience difficulties when there is a presumption of mainstream education for all.</p>	<p>We are determined to improve the life chances of all our children and make Scotland the best place in the world to grow up.</p> <p>The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 (as amended) provides the legal framework for identifying and addressing the additional support needs of children and young people who face barriers to learning. The Act aims to ensure that all children and young people are provided with the necessary support to help them work towards achieving their full potential. It places duties on local authorities to identify, provide for and to review</p>

		<p>the additional support needs of their pupils. Education authorities will plan for children’s learning using individual educational plans and, where there is significant support from education and another agency to meet the complex or multiple needs, a coordinated support plan.</p> <p>The legislation on the presumption of mainstreaming has clear exceptions to enable children and young people to learn in special school or in a specialist unit if that best suits their needs. The Standards in Scotland’s Schools etc Act 2000 places a duty on education authorities to provide education in a mainstream school unless specific exceptions apply.</p> <p>The exceptions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the education provided in a mainstream school would not be suitable for the aptitude and abilities of the child in question; • would be incompatible with the provision of efficient education for the children with whom the child would be educated; • placing the child in question in a mainstream school would incur unreasonable levels of public expenditure that would not otherwise be incurred. <p>A consultation on the presumption revised guidance on closed on 9 February 2018 and an analysis of the responses was published on 27 June. The revised guidance will be published in 2019.</p> <p>Enquire is the national advice and information service on additional support for learning and provides a range of advice and information for parents and carers via their website, factsheets and helpline. There is also a helpful website for young people called Reach.</p>
Parent carers: family support	Specific challenges faced by families of disabled children	<p>The Scottish Government is committed to equality for disabled children and young people in Scotland and to ensuring that all children can achieve their potential. We are in the final stages of developing an online information resource to support disabled children, young people and their families.</p> <p>Issues relating to disabled children and young people are present throughout numerous national policies and strategies, but there has never been a resource to pull all of these strands together. This resource consciously seeks to do just that, committing to helping</p>

		families navigate through national policy, and empowering them with knowledge of and clarity over their rights.
Dementia	Identification and supporting the carers of people with dementia	<p>The Scottish Government is committed to continuing to develop the support provided for people with dementia and their families.</p> <p>We are taking national action to identify and diagnose more people with dementia and earlier, so that their and their carers' needs can be identified earlier</p> <p>As part of this, we continue to support our national commitment that everyone newly diagnosed with dementia, and their family carers, are entitled to receive a minimum of a year's worth of skilled and dedicated dementia post-diagnostic support. The support comes from a named Link Worker or care co-ordinator, to help the individual and their carers adjust to and understand the illness and build a person-centred care plan.</p> <p>Your GP can refer on to specialist diagnostic services if a dementia is suspected. Your loved one should be seen by specialist services within 4 weeks. If a dementia is diagnosed, your GP can refer on to post-diagnostic services and a Link Worker will be assigned to the individual and family</p> <p>Carers of people with dementia are represented at all levels of the governance of the 2017-2020 National Dementia Strategy and we support two national dementia carer groups.</p>