



# The Carers Act (Scotland) 2016

- Comes into force on 1 April 2018
- Intention is to ensure Scotland's carers can continue caring, have good health and a life alongside caring
- The Act defines a carer as 'an individual who provides or intends to provide care for another individual'
- Act has removed 'regular and substantial' care



# Duty to prepare a carer plan or statement

- Adult Carer's Support Plan
  - Name changed from Carer's Assessment
  - CSP looks at five areas of the carer's life and must include emergency and future planning
- Young Carer's Statement for under 18s or those still a pupil at school
- To come - timescales for carers looking after someone with a terminal illness



# Duty to support carers

- Local authorities have:
  - a duty to support carers who meet the local eligibility criteria
  - the power to support carers in a preventative manner who do not meet the eligibility criteria



# Duty to involve carers

- Care planning
  - Local authorities and health boards have a duty to take into account the views of the carer when planning care, eg hospital discharge
- Developing services and strategies
  - Local authorities must involve carers in the development of local services and eligibility criteria
  - Local carers' strategies will be a joint responsibility for local authorities and health boards



## Duty to provide information and advice

- Act places duties on local authorities to:
  - Establish and maintain an information and advice service, including existing services
  - Provide carers with a range of information
  - Publish a short breaks services statement and provide a wide range of breaks



# What are the benefits for local carers?

- Increased knowledge of carers' rights
- Early intervention and crisis prevention
- Better:
  - carer engagement and involvement
  - carer health and well-being
  - personal outcomes for carers
  - income maximisation
  - emergency care planning
  - discharge planning, with reduced delays/readmission



## Good progress in the Borders so far...

- Nationally:
  - Local carers' views fed into consultation on Act's regulations
  - Representation by Carers' Centre on Scot Gov's working group
- Locally:
  - Health, Social Care Partnership and third sector working group
  - Carers' Advisory Board as a forum to involve and engage carers
  - Local collaboration on eligibility criteria
  - Carer's Support Plan and eligibility criteria (being piloted)
  - Expert Carers' group to model training for professionals
  - Carers' Act training for health and social care professionals