SHETLAND
ISLANDS COUNCIL

Community Health & Social Care
Freedom of Information Request

Details:

Date received in department	19/05/2021
Subject title	Adult Carer Support Plans and Young Carer Statements 19 - 21
FOI reference	FOI 11999

| Clarification Notes | The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 provides a duty on local authorities to prepare an Adult Carer Support Plan (ACSP) (Section 6) or young carer statement (YCS) (Section 12) for anyone they identify as a carer, or for any carer who requests one.

Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 Statutory Guidance directly states in relation to ACSP:

"Where a person self-identifies as a carer they may request an adult carer support plan (ACSP). If they appear to meet the definition of carer, the responsible local authority must prepare an ACSP.

When carers are identified by practitioners, whether in the community or acute settings, they must be offered an ACSP. If they accept the offer the responsible local authority must prepare an ACSP."

Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 Statutory Guidance also directly states in relation to YCS:

"Where a young person self-identifies as a carer they may request a young carer statement (YCS). If they appear to meet the definition of a young carer, the responsible authority must prepare a YCS.

When a young carer is identified by practitioners, whether in the community or acute settings, they must be offered a YCS. If they accept the offer the responsible authority must prepare a YCS." |
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FOI question(s):
At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic the Coronavirus Act 2020 (temporary legislation) was introduced, which allowed local authorities to ease some assessment duties. Section 16 of the

Act allowed for temporary relaxation of local authorities duties in relation to preparation of adult carer support plans/young carer statements under the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016.

Please indicate the following:

A. Exact number of ACSPs that have been   completed in financial year 2019/2020.
56

B. Exact number of ACSPs that have been completed in financial year 2020/2021.
35

C. Exact number of carers with completed ACSPs in financial year 2019/2020 that met local eligibility criteria for support.
Having considered the time that it would take for staff to check each individual assessment held, it is considered that this would be over the statutory threshold. Given the current workload of those staff, it would be impractical for the Council to spend time in providing you with the level of detail you have asked for, and to do so would not be the best use of the Council's resources.

D. Exact number of carers with completed ACSPs in financial year 2020/2021 that met local eligibility criteria for support.
Having considered the time that it would take for staff to check the system for each individual, it is considered that this would be over the statutory threshold. Given the current workload of those staff, it would be impractical for the Council to spend time in providing you with the level of detail you have asked for, and to do so would not be the best use of the Council's resources.

E. Average timescales from request to completion of ACSPs in financial year 2019/2020.
Average = 63 days   Median = 14 days

F. Average timescales from request to completion of ACSPs in financial year 2020/2021.
Average = 48 days   Median = 2 days

G. Confirm whether there was a waiting list for ACSPs in financial year 2019/2020 and what the average waiting time was.
Information not held - We may, at times, have a waiting list for allocation however we do not have information available to provide an average waiting time for these occasions.

H. Confirm whether there was a waiting list for ACSPs in financial year 2020/2021 and what the average waiting time was.
Information not held - We may, at times, have a waiting list for allocation however we do not have information available to provide an average waiting time for these occasions.

I. Confirm which service/s are responsible for undertaking ACSPs.
Adult Social Work

J. Exact number of YCSs that have been completed in financial year 2019/2020.
<10

K. Exact number of YCSs that have been completed in financial year 2020/2021.
<10

L. Exact number of young carers with completed YCSs in financial year 2019/2020 that met local eligibility criteria for support.
<10

M. Exact number of young carers with completed YCSs in financial year 2020/2021 that met local eligibility criteria for support.
<10

N. Average timescales from request to completion of YCSs in financial year 2019/2020.
Information not held

O. Average timescales from request to completion of YCSs in financial year 2020/2021.
Information not held

P. Confirm whether there was a waiting list for a YCS in financial year 2019/2020 and what was the average waiting time.
No waiting list or time

Q. Confirm whether there was a waiting list for a YCS in financial year 2020/2021 and what was the average waiting time.
No waiting list or time

R. Confirm which service/s is responsible for undertaking a YCS.
Schools and Social Work

Clarification	The answer to questions A, B, E and F are based on the number of recorded Carers Assessments recorded on the system. The averages (E and F) are based on the records where we could identify the initial contact.
Information Notes	Where the number is less than 10 it is felt that to give any more detailed information would potentially identify individuals. Therefore this data will be given as <10 in the answer. Due to the small numbers involved, this information has not been provided in detail, and has been classed by the Council as being exempt from public disclosure under Sections 36 (Confidentiality) and 39 (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. The Council is of the view that to release this detailed information to the public could give rise to the identification of individuals, which would place the Council in breach of its obligations under the Data Protection Act 2018, and could lead to legal proceedings against the Council.