

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT STATISTICS: PROPOSAL FOR A NEW 'CARERS CENSUS'

1. Introduction

1.1 This document consults on a new data collection on Carers. This data will be used to monitor the impact of the Carers Act being introduced on 1 April 2018 and will look to gather baseline data for the year ahead of implementation of the Act (from January 2017) and continue to collect data annually thereafter.

1.2 This data collection has been proposed by the Carers Bill Finance Advisory Group whose membership includes COSLA, local authorities, health boards, National Carers Organisations and Scottish Government. One of the original aims of the Finance Advisory group was to establish a baseline position in respect of current spend and related activity on adult and young carers (across LAs, NHS Boards, and Third Sector).

1.3 A Carers Act Short Life Working Group (SLWG) was formed in June 2016 to consider what a new data collection should look like and has met each month since then. Papers and minutes from the group are available at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Health/DataSupplier/CarersData>

2. Timings

2.1. This consultation will take place until dd mmm 2016

2.2. An event will be organised for early 2017 for Local Authorities to discuss the changes being proposed in more detail.

3. Background

3.1. The Carers Act.....(still to draft)

3.2. The Carers Bill Finance Advisory Group..... (still to draft)

3.3. The proposed Data Specification for the new Carers Census can be found at <weblink>. The data specification aims to set out why each question is being asked and what it will be used for. The following consultation asks for your views on the proposed data specification.

Consultation on proposal for a new ‘Carers Census’

Question 1: Baseline data for 2017-18

It is important to measure the impact of the Carers Act and to do this will require robust information on the number of Carers supported by local authorities prior to implementation of the Act. The scope of the survey is defined in the table below:

Are you currently able to identify carers for each of the categories in the table?

all persons who meet any of the following criteria:	Can you identify these carers (Y/N)?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have had an assessment or review of their needs as carers during the reporting period; or 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have been offered an assessment during the reporting period (including those who turned down the offer of assessment); or 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have requested an assessment during the reporting period; or 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have received one or more of the support services in the list below at any time during the reporting period; or 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • care for a person who has received respite or replacement care at any time during the reporting period; or 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are known by the local authority to be carers, but do not come under any of the groups listed above (e.g. a carer who was assessed prior to the reporting period, but is not receiving support because they did not meet the eligibility criteria) 	

If no, please provide further information on whether this could be implemented for 2017-18 and any reasons why this data may be difficult to collect ahead of implementation:

Question 2: Frequency of collection for baseline data for 2017-18

The first collection of baseline information will be for Jan-March 2017. We propose that the baseline data from January 2017 to March 2018 is collected quarterly to enable refinement and development of the guidance and definitions.

Do we want to ask any questions about frequency?

Annual vs quarterly?

Burden on LAs?

Question 3: Carer data

The SLWG recommends that the following information is collected for each carer:

	Do you currently hold this information (Y/N)?	Comments
Local Authority code		
IDCarer		
CHI number		
postcode		
date of birth		
gender		
ethnic group		
care hours		
care type		
care level		

Do you have any further comments on the information being asked for here?

Question 4: Cared-for person data

The SLWG recommends that the following information is collected for each person that the carer cares for:

	Do you currently hold this information (Y/N)?	Comments
IDCarer		
UniqueID		
CHI number		
postcode		
date of birth		
gender		
ethnic group		
client group		

Do you have any further comments on the information being asked for here?

Question 5: Carer assessment data

The SLWG recommends that the following information is collected for Adult Care Support Plans and Young Carers Statements (see Data Spec for full details). For the baseline data this will relate to the current Carers assessment processes that you have:

For Adult Care Support Plan / Young Carers Statement:	Do you currently hold this information (Y/N)?	Comments
source of referral for ACSP / YCS		
date ACSP / YCS requested / offered		
type of ACSP / YCS – new or review		
ACSP / YCS completed?		
date completed		
ACSP / YCS declined		
date declined		
ACSP / YCS joint assessment with cared for person		
is carer willing and able to care		
is carer eligible for support		
eligibility criteria		
carers support needs		
support provided / purchased by LA		
did review result in change to support		
what conditions would trigger a review		
For Young Carers Statement:		
responsible Authority for young carer		
extent to which responsible authority feels care provided by young carer is appropriate		

Do you have any further comments on the information being asked for here?

Question 6: Do you have any further comments on the survey? Any other data we should be collecting?