**Appendix A – Eligibility Criteria**

**1. What are eligibility criteria?**

Eligibility means meeting the stated requirements.

There are three aspects to eligibility:

1. The criteria that determines it

2. The thresholds that must be passed to trigger it

3. The services that follow it

This will be the criteria framework for services in Fife to work towards in order to support Young Carers appropriately based on their individual needs and outcomes.

**2. Why do we need a local eligibility framework?**

The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 commences on 1st April 2018. This is law that places a duty on local authorities to support Carers who meet the local eligibility criteria. There is a need to develop local eligibility criteria to provide support to Carers in different caring situations and across a whole range of life circumstances. Local eligibility criteria will help local authorities to prioritise support and to target available resources as effectively and efficiently as possible. Under the legislation all Young Carers (Y.C) have the right to Young Carers Statements (Y.C.S). This is where the Y.C will identify their needs and personal outcomes.

In Fife we already have eligibility criteria against which we measure adult carer’s needs for support which is set against critical criteria. In order for this to meet the needs of children and young people the levels of risk (critical, substantial, moderate and low) have been adapted in line with GIRFEC to read as follows: Intensive (including child protection), Additional and Universal. For child protection timescales are in keeping with standards of child protection and necessary protocols followed. For all other needs the threshold of support will be set at additional in relation to significant impact of the caring role on the child’s wellbeing and development. The timescale around this will be set at 10 weeks in line with Fife Carer’s Strategy.

All of the indicators set out in the eligibility criteria applies to young carers although some of the descriptions would change from those provided. The domains and indicators are linked to the eight wellbeing indicators of **S**afe, **H**ealthy, **A**chieving, **N**urtured, **A**ctive, **R**espected, **R**esponsible, and **I**ncluded as shown in the table below. The use of the local eligibility criteria for young carers is in relation to the impact of the caring role on the young carer. The young carer might have other needs unrelated to the impact of the caring role. In these circumstances, they could be eligible for other services.

**3. Wellbeing Indicators: impact on and risk to Y.C’s outcomes**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Universals support >local authority ‘power to support’** | | | **Targeted > local authority ‘duty to support’** | |
| No impact | Low | Moderate/  Additional | Substantial/  Intensive | Critical/Child Protection |
| Universal |
| Safe/Living environment | Y.C free from abuse, neglect or harm at home, at school and in the community | Y.C’s situation at home/within community is currently stable and manageable | Y.C’s situation at home is fluctuating and there is potential risk to Y.C and Cared for person | Y.C’s situation at home has potential to break down and there are safety risks which cannot be remedied in the short term | Young carer’s situation at home is unsuitable and there are significant safety risks for the Y.C and the Cared for person |
| Health | Y.C is in good physical and mental health with no identified medical needs | Y.C is able to manage some aspects of the caring/family/social roles / responsibilities and contact - there is a possibility of the Y.C’s health being affected | Y.C is able to manage some aspects of caring/family/social roles / responsibilities and contact - the Y.C’s health is being affected | Y.C is having difficulty in managing aspects of the caring/family/domestic/social roles/ responsibilities - the Y.C’s mental and physical health is affected as a result | Y.C has significant physical/mental difficulties due to the impact of their caring role - this may cause life threatening harm and negative impact on development |
| Achieving/education | Y.C continues to access education/ training and has no difficulty in managing caring and education. | Y.C has some difficulty managing caring, education/ training. There is a risk to accessing education in the long term | Y.C has difficulty managing caring, education/ training. There is a risk  To accessing education in the medium term | The Y.C is missing education / training and there is a risk of this ending in the near future. | The Y.C is at significant risk or has had to give up education/training. |
| Nurtured/relationships | Y.C has positive emotional wellbeing. Has a nurturing place to live – does not require additional help. Has a positive relationship with the cared-for person | Caring role  beginning to  have an impact on  emotional wellbeing -May require additional help. Risk of negative  impact on relationship with cared for person | There is some impact on the Y.C’s wellbeing and on their relationship with the cared for person resulting in a strained relationship. Need additional help in a suitable care setting. | There is a major impact on a daily basis to the Y.C’s wellbeing and impact on the cared for person. Y.C is unable to sustain many aspects of their caring role. | Complete breakdown in the relationship between the person and the Y.C, unable to continue caring/ has difficulty sustaining vital aspects of caring role.  Input is needed for the Y.C wellbeing. Y.C never feels acknowledged, therefore feels excluded. |
| Active/life balance | The Y.C has opportunities to take part in activities such as play, recreation and sport at home, in school and in the community | The Y.C has some opportunities to take part in activities such as play, recreation and sport at home, in school and in the community | The Y.C has limited opportunities to take part in activities such as play, recreation and sport at home, in school and in the community | The Y.C has few opportunities to take part in activities such as play, recreation and sport at home, in school and in the community which may have a negative impact on healthy growth and development | The Y.C has no opportunities to take part in activities such as play, recreation and sport at home, in school and in the community and this is impacting negatively on healthy growth and development |
| Respect/Responsible | The Y.C has regular opportunities to be heard / be involved in decisions and have a responsible role to be involved in decisions that affect them | The Y.C has some opportunities to be heard and involved in decisions and have a responsible role to be involved in decisions that affect them | Due to their caring role, the Y.C has limited opportunities to be heard and involved in decisions that affect them | The Y.C has few opportunities to be heard and involved in decisions that affect them. | The Y.C has no opportunities to be heard and involved in decisions that affect them. This impacting significantly on their health and well being |
| Included/Finances | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The Y.C feels accepted as part of the community in which they live and learn. Has time to become part of community activities. Free from financial stress | |  | | The Y.C feels some acceptance as part of the community in which they live and learn but is unsure how to participate in community activities. There is a small risk of financial stress | Due to their caring role, the Y.C has limited acceptance as part of the community in which they live and learn. There is a medium risk of financial pressure | The Y.C feels isolated and not confident in the community in which they live in. Lack significant connections with other young people. Need financial support | The Y.C does not feel accepted as part of the community in which they live in. The carer’s financial position is severe - there is financial hardship |

*Adapted from: Eligibility Criteria from NHS Lothian and Edinburgh city council*

**4. How we determine if a young carer is eligible for additional support**

To determine the level of need an assessment (YCS) will be made which will relate to the impact of the caring role on the individual. It will address the following questions:

* Is the carer able (and willing) to continue in their role?
* What is the risk of the caring role breaking down?
* Is the caring role inappropriate or excessive for age/stage of child or young person providing the care?

Young Carers Statements will consider the risks that affect the carer’s ability and willingness to care, also considering the impact of their caring role on their development and ability to be a child. These risk factors are balanced against those that apply to adult with care needs, such as:

* Risks to the young carer’s independence and freedom to make choices.
* Risks to the young carer’s health, safety and wellbeing.
* Is the young carer able to manage their own daily routines and are they deemed age appropriate?
* Is the young carer able to be involved in education, leisure and community life?

The eligibility framework is split into three bands, broadly covering the same areas as the eligibility criteria for service users (combining critical and intensive as one) aligning with GIRFEC definitions and outlining child protection issues under critical criteria. The intention is to provide support in a preventative model based on individual needs and outcomes. For children and young people this support needs to be flexible and work on a continuum, in order to meet needs across a variety of caring situations (covering universal, additional and intensive). Also where appropriate that support provided to the ‘cared for’ adult is considered in order to prevent young carer undertaking excessive or inappropriate care.

**4a. Eligibility criteria framework for Young Carers**

**5. Reviewing young carers statements**

Young Carers Statements will include a timescale and describe any changes of circumstances agreed with the carer that would trigger a review of the statement. This may be:

* A periodic triggers, for example annually.
* A specific change of circumstances such as moving home.
* Any change which has a material impact on the care provided by the young carer.
* If the young carers declines the assessment and/or YCS, or the review.
* When the young carer no longer wishes to be a carer or deemed as being a child protection issue requiring action

Young carers can request a review of their Young Carer Statement at any time. Getting it right for young carers will continue to promote partnership working with organisations and communities across Fife. This preventative approach will promote positive and lasting impact on young carers’ experience of caring and support them to be a child first and have experience’s similar to their non-caring peers.

Support and advice will promote the carer’s independence and contribution to the wider community. Supported through universal community services.