

The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 came into force in April 2018 and local authorities were provided with funding to compensate for additional costs.

The Carers Act resources were included within a package of funding for other initiatives. This was set out in the budget as: 'In 2018-19 an additional £66 million is included in the Local Government settlement allocations to support additional expenditure by local government on social care in recognition of a range of pressures they and integration authorities are facing, including support for the implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016, maintaining our joint commitment to the Living Wage (including our agreement to now extend it to cover sleepovers following the further work we have undertaken) and an increase in the Free Personal and Nursing Care payments.'¹

The budget also specified the amount of funding the Scottish Government had committed to implementing the Carers Act: 'we will support the implementation of the Carers (Scotland Act) 2016 from 1 April 2016, with investment of £19.4 million in Health and Social Care Partnerships.' The £19.4million reflected the amount set out in the Financial Memorandum accompanying the Carers Act. This £66million was allocated to Local Authorities for onward distribution to Integration Authorities.

In December 2018 The Coalition of Carers in Scotland, Shared Care Scotland and the Coalition of Care Providers sent out a Freedom of Information request to all local authority areas in Scotland asking for details of what the £66million had been allocated to and spent on.

Summary of Findings

- We received responses from 29 local authority areas, in total they have allocated just under £14m to implementing the Carers Act. Not all areas allocated their full share of the £19.4m and two areas did not allocate any funding to implementing the Carers Act.
- We have yet to receive a return from 3 areas which accounts for approx. £970k
- As well as asking for the amount of money allocated, we also asked how this money had been spent, this figure came to just under £13m.
- Of the £13m, £0.807m was spent on other areas, not related to carers and £2.602m has been set aside for future allocation or offset against potential costs, therefore there will not be full evidence of spend until 2019/20
- Given these figures there is currently a shortfall of approximately £5.4m, this figure is likely to be higher and could end up being as much as £9m
- In terms of what the funding was spent on, £8.309m was spent on implementing the Act and direct carer support and £1.235m was spent on replacement care and waiving

¹ Scottish Government Draft Budget 2018-2019

charges with Integrated Authorities using a proportion to set against potential loss of income.

- There is clear evidence from several areas that a proportion of the funding allocated to carer support is a continuation of funding previously received through Carer Information Strategy funding (£4.5m per annum) and the Change Fund. It is therefore not a new resource.
- We also have concerns that some funding allocated to carers centres replaces their previous contract/grant funding.

Figure 1: Money allocated to Carers Act implementation in 2018/19 by Local Authority Area

Responses were received from 29 Local Authorities. Figure 1 outlines the amount allocated to fund the implementation of the Carers Act by each Integrated Authority.

For those areas who did not allocate funding for this purpose an explanation is included, where received, in Table 1

Figures have be rounded up to the nearest £1,000. Total funding allocated £13.926m

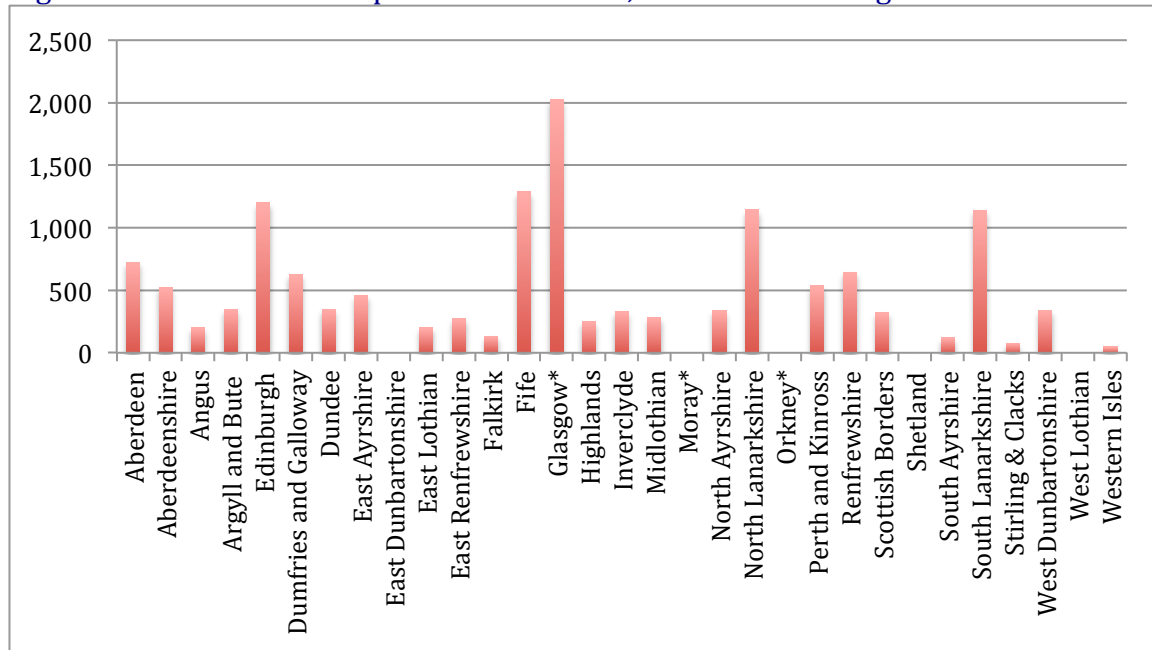


Table 1: Explanation from areas that did not allocate funds

No responses were received from three areas: East Dunbartonshire, West Lothian and Shetland	
Moray	'At this point in time no allocation has been made against the funding for the Carers Act, as work is ongoing to ascertain the impact on care provision'
Orkney	As it was such a small amount of funding that was allocated to cover various funding issues we have not split the allocation into the specific services

Figure 2: Evidence of Spend by Local Authority Area

We asked Integration Authorities what they had spent the funding on. This provided us both with information on any discrepancy between money allocated and money spent (Figure 2) and also on what the funding has been spent on (Figure 3)

Figures have been rounded up to the nearest £1,000.²

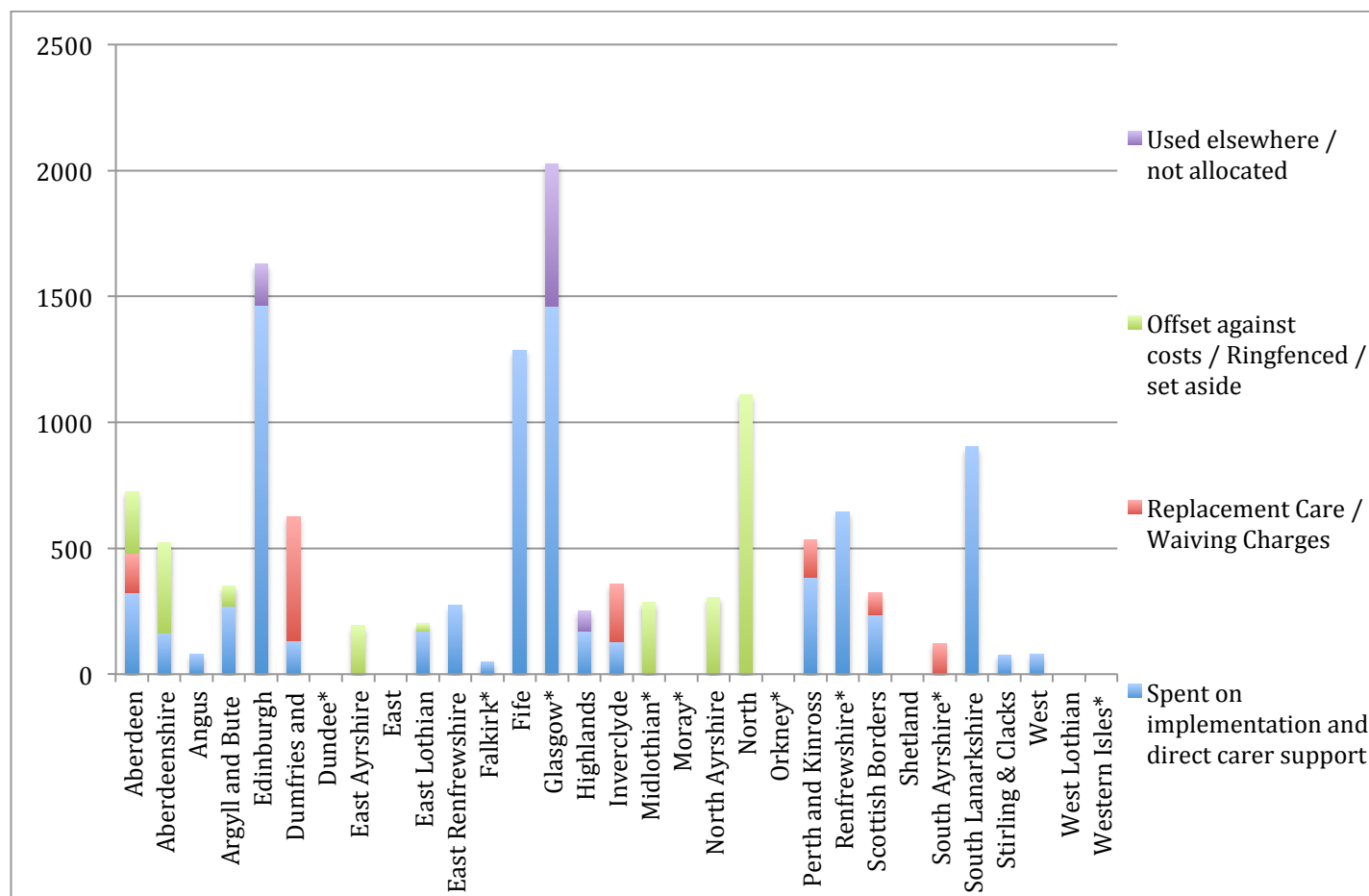


Table 2: This provides further explanation where the full amount has not been spent

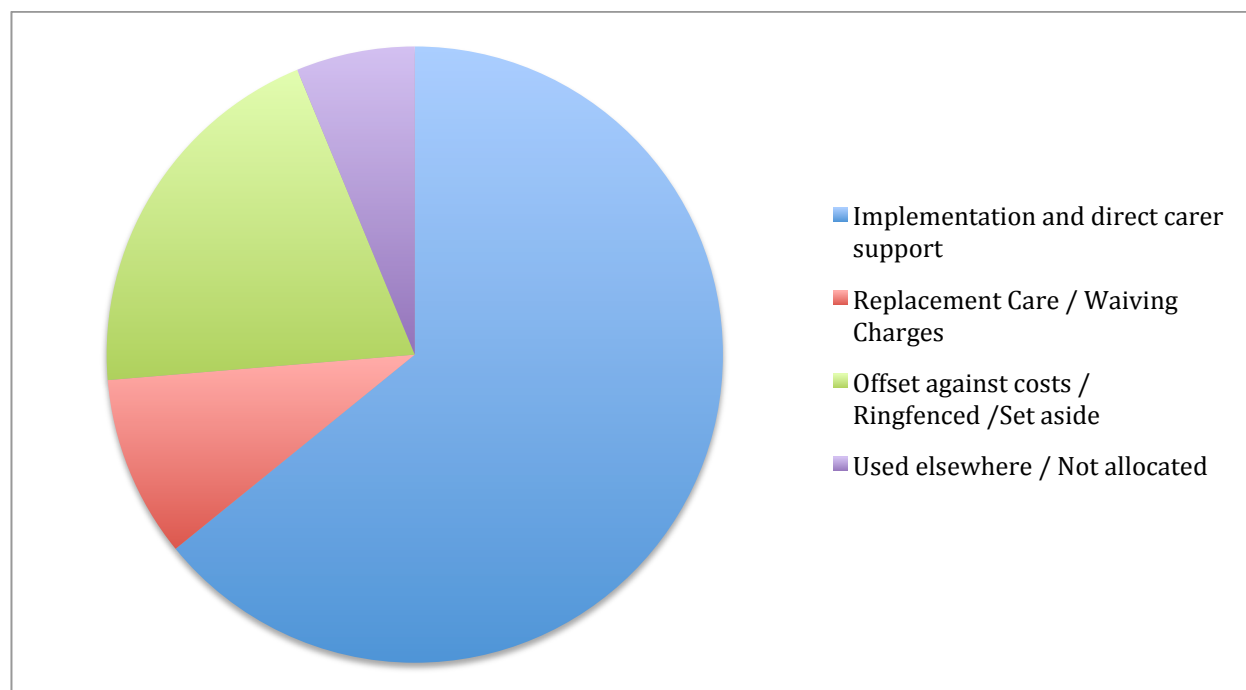
No responses were received from three areas: East Dunbartonshire, West Lothian and Shetland	
Dumfries	'Service proposals are currently going through the appropriate governance approval processes and are therefore not confirmed at this time'
Falkirk	'Further work is underway to determine the increase in demand for carer support and the resource implications of this'
Glasgow	'The proposals for the remaining balance are still being developed.'
Midlothian	'Ringfenced to support individual carers'

² A table is included in the Appendix

Moray	'At this point in time no allocation has been made against the funding for the Carers Act'
North Lanarkshire	'The funding has been set against services which North Lanarkshire is currently in the process of procuring'
Orkney	'As it was such a small amount of funding that was allocated to cover various funding issues we have not split the allocation into the specific services'
Renfrewshire	No breakdown of costs was provided. Areas described as receiving funding were the Carers Centre, waiving charges and undertaking ACSPs and YCSs
South Ayrshire	'The remaining monies for the Carer's Act £0.428m has been utilised to offset significant projected overspends within the partnership for 2018/19. '
West Dunbartonshire	'The residual amount of £260k continues to be part of the ongoing negotiations with Carers of West Dunbartonshire'
Western Isles	No funding has been allocated

Figure 3: What the funding has been used for

Figure 3 outlines broadly what the funding was used for.



Conclusions

The additional resources for carer support are welcomed and there are many examples of good practice initiatives and projects which have been funded through this resource which will undoubtedly produce many positive impacts for carers. In particular, several areas have

successfully engaged carers throughout the process of implementing the Carers Act and have allocated resources according to identified needs, with an emphasis on targeting resources at preventative support.

However, the Government’s commitment of £19.4m to fund the implementation of the Carers Act has not been fully realised.

The information we have gathered indicates that there is a potential shortfall of between £5.4m and £9m, although this will not be confirmed until the full figures are available following the end of the financial year.

In terms of funding that has been allocated to carer support, a significant proportion replaces previous funding, including CIS funding. It is therefore not an additional resource. In addition, a substantial item of expenditure is local authorities retaining money to compensate for loss of earnings from the waiving of charges for carers.

The way in which the funding was provided is a contributing factor. Two areas did not pass on the full resource from their share of the £66m to the Integration Authority. In addition, because the Carers Act funding was part of a larger package of funding for social care, which included other priority areas such as the Living Wage, this has meant some Integrated Authorities have used Carers Act funding for other purposes.

We do not believe that there is a lack of demand from carers for support. On the contrary, carers centres are reporting a significant increase in referrals since the Act came into force, despite a recent survey showing that 51% of carers are unaware of the Carers Act.³

Appendix

Money allocated to Carers Act implementation in 2018/19 by Local Authority Area

Local Authority Area	Rounded up to nearest £1,000
Aberdeen	£725
Aberdeenshire	£522
Angus	£200
Argyll and Bute	£350
Edinburgh	£1,200
Dumfries and Galloway	£627
Dundee	£350
East Ayrshire	£457
East Dunbartonshire	No response
East Lothian	£200
East Renfrewshire	£272
Falkirk	£134
Fife	£1,287
Glasgow*	£2,027
Highlands	£250

³ Survey by the Coalition of Carers in Scotland, November 2018 (over 1,000 responses from carers)

Inverclyde	£330
Midlothian	£281
Moray*	
North Ayrshire	£340
North Lanarkshire	£1,144
Orkney*	
Perth and Kinross	£535
Renfrewshire	£646
Scottish Borders	£322
Shetland	No response
South Ayrshire	£120
South Lanarkshire	£1,140
Stirling & Clacks	£77
West Dunbartonshire	£340
West Lothian	No response
Western Isles	£50
	£13,926

Evidence of Spend by Local Authority Area – Rounded up to the nearest £1,000

	Spent on implementation and direct carer support	Replacement Care / Waiving Charges	Offset against costs / Ringfenced /set aside	Used elsewhere / not allocated	TOTAL
Aberdeen	324	156	245		725
Aberdeenshire	164		358		522
Angus	80				80
Argyll and Bute	270		80		350
Edinburgh	1466			163	1629
Dumfries and Galloway	134	493			627
Dundee*					
East Ayrshire			192		192
East Dunbartonshire					
East Lothian	170		30		200
East Renfrewshire	272				272
Falkirk*	50				50
Fife	1287				1287
Glasgow*	1463			564	2027
Highlands	170			80	250
Inverclyde	127	230			357

Midlothian*			287		287
Moray*					
North Ayrshire	6		300		306
North Lanarkshire*			1110		1110
Orkney*					
Perth and Kinross	385	150			535
Renfrewshire*	646				646
Scottish Borders	236	86			322
Shetland					
South Ayrshire*		120			120
South Lanarkshire	902				902
Stirling & Clacks	77				77
West					
Dunbartonshire*	80				80
West Lothian					
Western Isles*					
TOTAL	8309	1235	2602	807	12953