The Borders Carers Centre has had an opportunity to review the response from the Scottish Government and the content of the draft bill. We would like to make the following observations –

- Young carers statement – all should be offered an ACSP at 18 – specific to the needs of Young Adult Carers moving into adult services and preparing for the future.
- National eligibility criteria essential to stop post code type issues
- 3rd sector capacity issues need to be addressed in general, impact of low level support via CA needs careful consideration
- Equality of access to services and a life outside caring needs to be strengthened – carers should wherever possible, within the constraints of their caring role, be able to have a life of their own
- Emergency planning and anticipatory care planning is essential
- Carer engagement and consultation needs resourced
- Discharge planning statement needs strengthened – start at admission
- CIS funding should protected so good work practices established will not be lost
- Carers strategies should be signed off by local carers
- There should be a duty on GP’s to identify carers
- Fast track palliative carers
- Recognition of the unique needs of Young Adult Carers
- Short breaks statement needs to be clear and unambiguous, stating eligibility and minimum entitlement
- Build on the years of good practice that have been developed via Carers Centres
- Recognition that rural areas have specific needs, takes longer to establish services, cultural issues that do not exist in cities

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