

The Coalition of Carers in Scotland

5 **CLEAR** Reasons for National Eligibility Criteria

Carers want **National** Eligibility Criteria

Carers were clear in their response to the consultation on the Carers Bill that they wanted new rights linked to **National** Eligibility Criteria

'There needs to be equality across the board – everyone assessed using the same eligibility criteria with the same entitlements to support and resources'¹

Learning from other countries

There is clear evidence from around the world that adopting a universal approach to care provision is the fairest approach. Both England Wales have recently introduced national eligibility criteria for social care services, including support for carers.

'Most developed national countries have universal social care arrangements, accessible to all those with defined levels of care and support needs'²

Equity

National Eligibility Criteria would be a fair system. It would put an end to the frustration carers feel when they are not able to access the same level of support as other carers living in a different local authority area

'Protects all carers not just carers who are lucky enough to live in a well-resourced area'³

Abolishes the postcode lottery

National Eligibility Criteria would mean that carers would know exactly what they were entitled to

'Eligibility criteria must be national – you don't want people moving area to get a better service'⁴

Rights

Eligibility Criteria is the gateway to new rights for carers. They must be clear rights available to all, not at the discretion of local criteria

'Where a duty is put in place, it is important LAs adhere to it. There needs to be sanctions for those who do not provide carers with their rights'⁵

¹ Carer response to consultation on the Carers Bill, North Lanarkshire

² Viewpoint, Rethinking Social Care and Support, University of York and Stirling

³ Carer response to consultation on the Carers Bill, COCIS meeting

⁴ Carer response to consultation on the Carers Bill. Borders Carers Centre

⁵ Carer response to consultation on the Carers Bill, COCIS Rural and Remote Carers Group