



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

Date of Meeting	11 October 2022
Report Title	Draft ACHSCP Carers Strategy
Report Number	HSCP22.080
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Consultation Checklist Completed	Yes
Directions Required	No
Appendices	Appendix A – Draft ACHSCP Carers Strategy Appendix B – Draft ACHSCP Carers Strategy Action Plan Appendix C – Stage 3 Health Inequalities Impact Assessment (HIIA) Appendix D – Overview of engagement activity on the ACHSCP Carers Strategy

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress with the development of the Aberdeen City Carers Strategy and provide opportunity to comment on the Draft Strategy included at Appendix A in advance of a period of public Consultation on the Strategy.

2. Recommendations



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2.1. It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board:

- a) Endorse the Draft Strategy included in Appendix A and Action plan in Appendix B.
- b) Endorse the engagement overview and consultation timeline included in Appendix D.
- c) Note that there will be a period of public consultation on the draft strategy.
- d) Instruct the Chief Officer of the IJB to present the final version of the Aberdeen City Carer Strategy for approval at the next IJB meeting on 29th November 2022.

3. Summary of Key Information

- 3.1. On 1 April 2018 [The Carers \(Scotland\) Act 2016 \(the “2016 Act”\)](#) came into effect. The 2016 Act places a duty on local authorities and health boards to prepare and publish a local Carers Strategy covering both adults and young carers. This is delegated to Integration Joint Boards under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Prescribed Local Authority Functions Etc.) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2017 and the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Prescribed Health Board Functions) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2017. On 27 March 2018 the IJB approved Aberdeen City’s Carers Strategy [‘A Life Alongside Caring’](#). The strategy had a three-year life span ending March 2021.
- 3.2. The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the ability of the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP) to review the Strategy in line with the original timeline to March 2021. A desktop review of the existing strategy was completed and on 6th July 2021 the IJB agreed to extend the lifespan of the existing Carers Strategy to March 2022, and this was subsequently extended to October 2022.
- 3.3. The 2016 Act provides a definition of a Carer. This is someone who provides or intends to provide care for another individual. An Adult Carer is defined as a carer who is at least 18 years old but is not a young carer. A Young Carer is defined as a carer who is under 18 years old or has attained the age of 18 years while a pupil at a school, and has since attaining that age remained a



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pupil at that or another school. The definition of a Carer excludes paid Carers, for example those working for a care agency, and Volunteers. For this reason, the Carers to whom the 2016 Act refers are often referred to as 'Unpaid Carers' to provide this distinction. Other exclusions include Foster Carers and parents of dependent children. The Statutory guidance for the 2016 Act states that, "parents of dependent children with additional care and support needs can still be 'carers' to the extent that the care is or would be provided by virtue of something other than the child's age", therefore Parent Carers are referred to within the Strategy where this circumstance applies. For ease of reading the term 'Carers' is used throughout the Strategy with the above explained in the 'Who are Carers?' section.

- 3.4.** The strategy is supported by a Carers Strategy Implementation Group (CSIG) who meet regularly to review actions and work together in the development of Carers support in Aberdeen City. A recent update on progress made to support Unpaid Carers in Aberdeen City was included in our Annual Report 2021-2022 which was presented to the IJB on 30th August 2022.
- 3.5.** In Aberdeen City we have 803 Carers known to our Adult Carer Support Service and 135 Young Carers known to our Young Carer Support service. The 2011 Census estimated that there were 222,793 people living in Aberdeen and that 15,571 are Carers. With 6,229 stating that they provide more than 20 hours of unpaid care per week. The Scottish Health Survey (SHeS) presents that 11% of Aberdeen's population identify as a Carer. This is lower than the national average of 15%. This would take us to a figure of 24,500 unpaid carers in Aberdeen. Of these numbers there are estimated to be approximately 2000 Young Carers.
- 3.6.** There is therefore a significant gap between the estimated number of people who are acting as Carers in Aberdeen and those known to us, however, not all unpaid carers wish to be recognised as such or wish to register for support. The unpaid caring role is often a journey with support only being sought when a crisis point is reached. Whilst we are mindful that each caring role is individual, we are committed to increasing awareness of the support available to unpaid carers and encouraging more of them to come forward for this.



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- 3.7.** The Adult Carer Support Service changed provider in December 2020. This followed a tendering process with Quarriers taking over. During the provider transition Quarriers were also not able to be provided with the information held on 'known Carers' by the previous provider meaning they were required to start from the beginning. Whilst they have been proactive in promoting the service it is recognised that a change of service during the height of the pandemic, when the public and our workforce were focussed on the pandemic response, has meant there is still a lack of knowledge about the Adult Carer service available as we look to implement the strategy.
- 3.8.** The Scottish Health and Care Experience Survey indicated a reduction in satisfaction of Carers who feel supported to continue in their caring role in Aberdeen City from 34% in 2019/20 to 32% in 2021/22. Whilst higher than the national percentage of 30% in 2021/22, this still indicates that 66% of Carers do not feel supported in their caring role.
- 3.9.** Nationally the Independent review of Adult Social Care (Feeley report) focussed specifically on the challenges experienced by Unpaid Carers in Scotland and, where actionable within existing legislation, these are included within the Draft Strategy. The Scottish Government have also indicated their intention to publish a National Carer Strategy, something which has not been in place previously. The Action Plan will be a working document and will be flexible to incorporate any additional requirements made by the Scottish Government when the National Carer Strategy is published.
- 3.10.** The Draft Strategy included in Appendix A is intended to be both informative and forward thinking. It provides an overview of some of the support currently available in Aberdeen City as well as areas where there is a need for further development or improvement to ensure there is suitable support available for all Unpaid Carers supporting cared for people in Aberdeen City.
- 3.11.** This Strategy is for all Carers including Young Carers. For this reason, it has also been presented to the Children's Services Board for their comment.



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3.12. The Draft Strategy outlines 4 Strategic Priorities.

- Identifying as a Carer and the first steps to support
- Accessing Advice and Support
- Supporting future planning, decision making and wider Carer involvement
- Community support and services for Carers

3.13. The Strategy is accompanied by an Action Plan which highlights currently identified actions. This is intended to be a live document with new actions being added as they are identified. We are considering ways to ensure that this is kept up to date in the public domain.

4. Implications for IJB

4.1. Equalities, Fairer Scotland and Health Inequality

A stage 3 Health Inequalities Impact Assessment (HIIA) is included in Appendix B.

The strategy aims to enhance equality of opportunity for all Carers. Ensuring that all Unpaid Carers have access to support is a golden thread through the Strategy. During the first stages of engagement, it was recognised that we did not have a thorough understanding of the perspective of Carers from minority ethnic communities in Aberdeen. Whilst further engagement is underway to address this, with regard to, strategy development it is recognised that ongoing engagement is required to ensure that 'less heard communities' are aware of their rights within the Act and that local supports and services are developed with the needs of all Carers in mind. The CSIG will work alongside members of the Equality and Human Rights sub-group to continue to develop our understanding of the needs of all communities in Aberdeen.

4.2. Financial

The ACHSCP budget for Carers is £2,537,067. This is made up of the £1,768,067 budget from 21/22 plus £769,000 of additional SG funding for 22/23. This budget includes provision of social care services provided via



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our adult social work teams where these provide a break to the Carer as well as the specific Carer support services listed above.

The actions outlined within the Strategy and Action Plan would be delivered within the existing resource envelope and through additional, applied for, funding streams where available.

4.3. Workforce

The Strategy will be delivered by the workforce in partnership with Unpaid Carers and the wider community.

Members of the ACHSCP, NHS Grampian, Aberdeen City Council, independent and third sector workforces have been engaged with during the development of this Strategy. Several recommendations are included within the Strategy with the aim of improving the knowledge of all members of the workforce on the rights of Carers and appropriate routes to support.

It is recognised that members of our workforce may be Unpaid Carers themselves and we will link in with the work of the ACHSCP Workforce Plan to support them.

4.4. Legal

Having a local Carer Strategy in place meets the legal obligations on the IJB within The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016. The Act and subsequent regulations outline the nine specific areas which are to be included within a Local Carer Strategy. These are listed below along with the relevant section within the Strategy where these are addressed.

Local Carer Strategy Checklist	ACHSCP Draft Strategy relevant section
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans for identifying relevant carers and obtaining information about the care they provide (or intend to provide) to cared-for persons in the local authority's area 	Priority 1



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Local Carer Strategy Checklist	ACHSCP Draft Strategy relevant section
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An assessment of the demand for support to relevant carers • Support available to relevant carers in the authority's area from - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the authority, ○ the relevant health board, ○ any other organisations that the authority and health board consider appropriate • An assessment of the extent to which demand for support to relevant carers is currently not being met • Plans for supporting relevant carers • Plans for helping relevant carers put arrangements in place for the provision of care to cared-for persons in emergencies, • an assessment of the extent to which plans for supporting relevant carers may reduce any impact of caring on relevant carers' health and wellbeing, • the intended timescales for preparing adult carer support plans and young carer statements. • information relating to the particular needs and circumstances of young carers. 	<p>Who are Carers? (Page 14)</p> <p>Commissioned Carers Support services in Aberdeen (Page 12) Priority 2 & 4</p> <p>Who are Carers?</p> <p>Priority 1,2,3, 4 & Action Plan</p> <p>Priority 3</p> <p>Priority, 2,3 & 4</p> <p>Priority 3</p> <p>Carers Support services in Aberdeen</p> <p>Priority 2 & 4</p>



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4.5. COVID-19

COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the time taken to develop this strategy. The pandemic has disproportionately impacted on Carers and this impact is considered specifically within the draft Strategy.

4.6. Unpaid Carers

The recommendations and proposals within this report are focused on improving experiences of Unpaid Carers. They will continue to be fully involved in the planning and delivery of services designed to support them.

5. Links to ACHSCP Strategic Plan

- 5.1. The development of this Strategy is a specific action identified within the ACHSCP Strategic Plan 2022-2025 under the strategic aim of 'Caring Together'.

6. Management of Risk

6.1. Identified risks(s)

Supporting Carers is an important element of our approach to prevention in our Strategic Plan 2022-2025. By supporting Carers to continue Caring we will support the wider population to live well for longer at home and potentially reduce the demand on other Health and Social Care services, for example, unplanned Hospital admissions.

There is a risk that if we do not continue to have a robust Carers Strategy that the voices of unpaid carers are unheard, and services designed to support them will not meet their needs. There is also a risk that the IJB fails to meet its obligations within the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016.



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6.2. Link to risks on strategic or operational risk register:

This report links to Risk 5 on the Strategic Risk Register:

Cause: Performance standards/outcomes are set by national and regulatory bodies and those locally determined performance standards are set by the board itself.

Event: There is a risk that the IJB, and the services that it directs and has operational oversight of, fails to meet the national, regulatory and local standards.

Consequence: This may result in harm or risk of harm to people.

6.3. How might the content of this report impact or mitigate these risks:

This report recommends an approach which aims to continue to develop Carers support services and improve the experience of Unpaid Carers supporting people living in Aberdeen City.