



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

Date of Meeting	3 February 2026
Report Title	Carers Strategy 2026 – 2030
Report Number	HSCP.26.007
Lead Officer	Alison Macleod Strategy and Transformation Lead
Report Author Details	Stuart Lamberton Transformation Programme Manager SLamberton@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Consultation Checklist Completed	Yes
Directions Required	No
Exempt	No
Appendices	A – Carers Strategy 2026 – 2030 B – Engagement and Consultation Summary C – Carers Strategy 2026 – 2030 Integrated Impact Assessment
Terms of Reference	2 - Any function or remit delegated under the Aberdeen City Integration Scheme, which is bound to be undertaken by the JB itself

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1. The purpose of this report is to present the new Carers Strategy 2026-2030.

2. Recommendations

2.1. It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board:

- a) approves the new Carers Strategy 2026-2030
- b) Instruct the Chief Officer to develop a delivery plan for Carers Strategy



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3. Strategic Plan Context

- 3.1. The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 places a duty on Local Authorities and Health Boards to prepare and publish a local Carer Strategy. This duty 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. The development and delivery of the Carers Strategy is a specific action identified within our ACHSCP Strategic Plan 2025-2029 under the aim of modernising our approach to service delivery and the priority of making best use of our resources.
- 3.2. A City for All Carers 2026–2030 is a preventative strategy that focuses on early identification, support, and empowerment of unpaid carers. By reducing crisis points and promoting wellbeing through timely interventions, collaborative networks, and rights-based support, it will help sustain caring roles and prevent escalation into acute health and social care needs.
- 3.3. Similar to the [Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan 2025 – 2029](#), we have key principles underpinning this strategy. The Carers Strategy directly supports the delivery of shifting our focus to prevention and early intervention.

4. Summary of Key Information

- 4.1. This report presents to the IJB the new Carers Strategy for 2026 – 2030 (Appendix A). This Strategy has been developed directly with Carers through our co-production workshops and together with all organisations represented on the Carers Strategy Implementation Group (CSIG). Information on the engagement and co-production processes undertaken are summarised within Appendix B.
- 4.2. The Carers Strategy 2026 – 2030 sets out our aim to further increase carer engagement across the City ensuring more carers are involved in service developments and decision making. Taking the lead from our ACHSCP Strategic Plan 2025 – 2029 there are two achievable and realistic priorities in the new Carers Strategy:
 - Carers, services and partners all working together to ensure that Carers



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feel included, are provided clear information, and are empowered to use their rights and access the support they need.

- We are creative and innovative with our finance and resources to maximise support we can offer and provide to Carers

- 4.3.** The Carers Strategy, sets out a plan on a page with the Aim, Priorities and key programmes of work to be undertaken over the next four years. A delivery plan is to be developed within the first quarter, this will be developed by CSIG and the Carers Reference Group. Key actions under these programmes of work will be identified and implemented in the delivery plan. This will be monitored and reviewed at each annual report stage and through each CSIG meeting..

5. Implications for IJB

5.1. Equalities, Fairer Scotland and Health Inequality

Our local Carers Strategy aims to enhance equality of opportunity for all carers. The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 provides a definition of a carer and 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 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 Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 refers are often referred to as 'unpaid carers' to provide this distinction.

Ensuring that all unpaid carers have access to support is a central theme of our strategy. The Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) carried out for the Carers Strategy can be found [here](#). The IIA for the new Carers Strategy 2026 – 2030 can be found at Appendix C. Ongoing engagement and the development of our Carers Reference Group is required to ensure that all carers are aware of their rights within the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 and that local supports and services are developed with the needs of all carers in mind. The Carers Strategy Implementation Group (CSIG) works alongside members of the Equality and Human Rights sub-group to continue to develop our understanding of the needs of all communities in Aberdeen and specific actions on developing approaches to engaging with both minority ethnic communities and LGBTQ+ communities are included within the Carers Strategy action plan.



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5.2. Financial

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

The ACHSCP budget for Carers in 2024 was £1,786,419 which is provided by the Scottish Government. This budget includes provision of social care services provided via our adult social work teams where these provide breaks to the carer as well as our specific carer support services. The actions outlined within the Carers Strategy action plan are delivered within the existing resource envelope and through additional, applied for, funding streams where available.

5.3. Workforce

The Carers Strategy is delivered by the Carers Strategy Implementation Group (CSIG) which includes our key workforce members, partnership organisations, unpaid carers representatives and the wider community. Members of ACHSCP, NHS Grampian, Aberdeen City Council, independent and third sector workforces were engaged with in development and delivery of our strategies. Several recommendations are included within our Carers Strategy with the aim of improving the knowledge of all members of our 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 CSIG continue to link in with the work of the ACHSCP Workforce Plan to support them.

5.4. Legal

There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report. Having our Carers Strategy in place meets the legal obligations on the IJB within the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016.

5.5. Unpaid Carers

The development and delivery of our Carers Strategy is focused on improving experiences of unpaid carers. This strategy provides a look



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ahead over the coming years detailing what our priorities are moving forward. Unpaid carers will continue to be fully involved in the planning and delivery of services designed to support them.

5.6. Information Governance

There are no direct information governance implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5.7. Environmental Impacts

There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5.8. Sustainability

There are no direct sustainability implications arising from the recommendations of this report.



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6. Management of Risk

6.1. Identified risks(s)

Supporting Carers is an important element of our approach to prevention in our Strategic Plan 2025-2029. By supporting carers to continue caring we will support the wider population to live well for longer at home and help 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, the voices of unpaid carers will not be heard, 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.

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

This report links to the following risks identified in the Risk Register:

Risk 4 -

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.

Risk 6 -

Cause: Need to involve lived experience in service delivery and design as per Integration Principles

Event: IJB fails to maximise the opportunities created for engaging with our communities

Consequence: Services are not tailored to individual needs; reputational damage; and IJB does not meet strategic aims

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



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The delivery of our Carers Strategy and action plan helps directly mitigate these risks. We continue to refine our approach in developing carers support services and improving the experience of unpaid carers across Aberdeen City.