



Integration Joint Board

Report Title	Carers Strategy – A Life Alongside Caring
Lead Officer	Sally Shaw, Head of Strategy and Transformation
Report Author	Alison MacLeod, Lead Strategy and Performance Manager
Report Number	HSCP/17/082
Date of Report	16 th October 2017
Date of Meeting	31 st October 2017

1: Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek the IJB's approval of the draft Carer's Strategy – 'A Life Alongside Caring' attached as an appendix as it relates to Adult Carers. Following IJB approval, the strategy will be the subject of public consultation across our sectors, localities and stakeholders.
- 1.2. The finalised strategy will be brought back to the IJB on 30th January 2018 for final approval before going to Aberdeen City Council for noting (given the duty the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 places Councils under) and full publication by 1st April 2018. The strategy will also go to the Integrated Children's Services Committee for their approval of the Young Carers aspects.

2: Summary of Key Information

- 2.1. On 1st April 2018 The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 (the "2016 Act") comes into effect. The Act extends and enhances the rights of Carers in Scotland to help improve their health and wellbeing so that they can continue to care, if they so wish, and have a life alongside caring.
- 2.2. The 2016 Act places a duty on local authorities and health boards to prepare a local Carers Strategy covering both adults and young carers. Aberdeen's strategy will consequently encompass all ages and work is ongoing to ensure that the final document relates equally to young carers as it does to adult carers. The finalised strategy will include an



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Action Plan detailing the actions to be undertaken, the resources required, how we will know it is working, the timescale and who is responsible.

- 2.3. The draft strategy attached sets out how the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership and the Integrated Children's Services Partnership within the city intend to deliver the requirements of the 2016 Act particularly in relation to identifying both adult and young carers, understanding the care that they provide and their support needs, and providing comprehensive and easily accessible information on the type of support available as well as how and where to get it.
- 2.4. The 2016 Act describes requirements for Local Carer Strategies to cover the following: -
- Plans for identifying relevant carers and obtaining information about the care they provide.
 - Assessment of demand
 - Support available
 - The extent to which demand for support is currently not being met.
 - Plans for support
 - Plans to help with emergency arrangements
 - An assessment of the extent to which support may reduce impact on health and wellbeing
 - Intended timescales for preparing adult carer support plans and young carers statements
 - Other appropriate information
 - Information relating to the particular needs and circumstances of Young carers
- 2.5. In addition Local Carer Strategies must: -
- Have regard to:-
 - National health and wellbeing outcomes
 - Integration functions relevant to carers (set out in Strategic Plan)
 - Various sections of the Children and Young People (Scotland)



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- Act 2014 and the principles of GIRFEC
- Any other local or national plans
 - Have undergone consultation with appropriate people and bodies
 - Involve relevant carers
 - Be published and reviewed (within 3 years)
- 2.6. The development of this strategy was co-ordinated by a Steering Group with representatives from the partnership, Integrated Children's Services, third and independent sectors, and carer representatives. It was informed by the output from various workshops, a programme of Carers Conversations and the work of various sub groups of the Steering Group looking at the different requirements of the legislation.
- 2.7. The Carers Conversations programme had a number of parts including:
- A large-scale event for Carer Organisations
 - A large-scale public 'drop-in' event for Carers
 - A survey consultation including the City Voice survey and a 'Carers Conversation' questionnaire
 - Formal and informal Carers conversations – attending carers meetings; 1:1 conversations and group conversations.
- 2.8. It is estimated that approximately 1000 carers were able to provide their views on what is important to them.
- 2.9. These consultation and engagement activities were valuable sources of information and it is intended that similar events will be repeated throughout the lifespan of this strategy to test how we are doing with its implementation and provide an opportunity to revise activity if necessary.

3: Equalities, Financial, Workforce and Other Implications

Financial Implications

- 3.1. Further discussions and consideration need to be undertaken in respect of the Carers Strategy to understand the increased demand and the cost



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pressures this will bring. A critical aspect of these discussions will be the Eligibility Criteria that is set for carers receiving support. A sub group of the Carers Strategy Steering Group is considering what Eligibility Criteria is appropriate to meet our legislative obligations as well as being affordable. Their findings will inform the final strategy put forward for approval in January 2018. It is understood that funding will be available through the financial settlement for the implementation of the Carers Strategy and it is anticipated that this will be known by December 2017.

Equalities Implications

- 3.2. An Equalities & Human Rights Impact Assessment will be completed in respect of the final strategy.

Workforce Implications

- 3.3. The Carers (Scotland) 2016 Act brings a number of new and different obligations for staff. Dedicated resource will be made available to ensure the Act is implemented. Appropriate information and training will be given to all staff along with revised tools and processes.

Legal Implications

- 3.4. The Integration Scheme will need to be amended by Aberdeen City Council and NHS Grampian so that the duties under the Carers (Scotland) 2016 Act can be formally delegated to the IJB. The statutory review process of the integration Scheme includes a consultation period.

4: Management of Risk

Identified risk(s): There is a risk that the IJB and the services that it directs and has operational oversight of fail to meet performance standards or outcomes as set by regulatory bodies

Link to risk number on strategic or operational risk register:

Strategic Risk Register #7.

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



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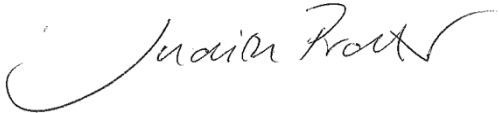

The Carers Strategy – A Life Alongside Caring ensures the IJB will meet the Partners legislative duties under the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016.

5: Recommendations for Action

It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board:

1. Instruct the Chief Officer to issue the draft Carers Strategy – A Life Alongside Caring for wider public consultation.
2. Instruct the Chief Officer to bring the final version of the Carers Strategy – A Life Alongside Caring to the IJB on 30th January 2018 for approval.

6: Signatures

	Judith Proctor (Chief Officer)
	Alex Stephen (Chief Finance Officer)