



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/17/105
Date of Report	15 th November 2017
Date of Meeting	12 th December 2017

1: Purpose of the Report

1.1. On 31st October 2017 the Integration Joint Board (IJB) considered a report by Alison MacLeod (Lead Strategy and Transformation Manager, ACHSCP) which sought IJB approval of the draft Carer's Strategy 'A Life Alongside Caring' as it relates to Adult Carers.

1.2. The Board was advised that the Partnership was liaising with colleagues from the Council's Education and Children's Service's Directorate to develop further the content on young carers. The Board resolved: -

- i. to defer approval of the draft Carers Strategy to allow further detail on young carers to be included within the draft strategy; and
- ii. to request that the draft Carers Strategy be re-submitted to the Board's next meeting on 12 December 2017.

1.3. Further work was undertaken with colleagues from the Council's Education and Children's Service's Directorate and additional content was added in respect of Young Carers to the Introduction; to section 2c) in relation to the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014; to section 4 on Equality, Diversity and Human Rights; and to sections 7, 8 and 9.

1.4. A revised draft is attached as Appendix A and the purpose of this report is to seek the IJB's approval that this draft Carer's Strategy – 'A Life Alongside Caring' can go out for consultation. It is proposed that consultation will commence 8th January 2018 for a period of 6 weeks. The



Integration Joint Board

next Council Education and Children's Social Work Committee is not until 25th January 2018 however the Chief Social Work Officer is content that an information report is submitted to that committee for noting that the draft strategy is out for consultation.

1.5. The finalised strategy will be brought back to the IJB on 27th March 2018 for approval. Given the duty the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 places Councils under, and that the strategy is a joint one covering both adult and young carers, it will also be submitted both to the relevant committee for Children's Social Work Services for approval (taking cognisance of the new arrangements under Aberdeen City Council's transformation programme) and subsequently to the full Council meeting for approval, the latter report will note the recommendations of both the IJB and the Children's Services committee in considering its approval.

1.6. The dates for these meetings are not available yet. Although the legislation is implemented as of 1st April 2018 there is no requirement to have the local strategy published in advance of that date and the strategy will only be published once the necessary approval process has been undertaken.

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 and publish a local Carers Strategy covering both adults and young carers.

2.3. The finalised strategy will include an Action Plan detailing the actions to be undertaken, the resources required, how we will know it is working, the timescale and who is responsible.



Integration Joint Board

2.4. The draft strategy attached sets out how the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership and the Integrated Children's Services Partnership within Aberdeen 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.

2.5. 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

2.6. 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) Act 2014 and the principles of GIRFEC
 - Any other local or national plans



Integration Joint Board

- Have undergone consultation with appropriate people and bodies
 - Involve relevant carers
 - Be published and reviewed (within 3 years)
- 2.7. 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.
- 2.8. 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.
- 2.9. It is estimated that approximately 1000 carers were able to provide their views on what is important to them.
- 2.10. These consultation and engagement activities were valuable sources of information and it is intended that similar events will be repeated throughout the lifespan of the strategy to test how we are doing with its implementation and provide an opportunity to revise activity if necessary.



Integration Joint Board

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 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 March 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 not be known until February 2018.

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.



Integration Joint Board

4: Management of Risk
<p>Identified risk(s):</p> <p>Link to risk number on strategic or operational risk register:</p> <p>7. 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</p> <p>How might the content of this report impact or mitigate the known risks:</p> <p>The Carers Strategy – A Life Alongside Caring ensures the IJB will meet the Partners legislative duties under the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016.</p>

5: Recommendations for Action
<p>It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Instructs the Chief Officer to issue the draft Carers Strategy – A Life Alongside Caring for wider public consultation. Instructs the Chief Officer to bring the final version of the Carers Strategy – A Life Alongside Caring to the IJB on 27th March 2018 for approval.

6: Signatures	
	Judith Proctor (Chief Officer)
	Alex Stephen (Chief Finance Officer)