



Integration Joint Board

Report Title	Carers Strategy – A Life Alongside Caring
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Report Author	Alison MacLeod, Lead Strategy and Performance Manager, ACHSCP
Report Number	HSCP/18/ 134
Date of Report	23 rd February 2018
Date of Meeting	27 th March 2018

1: Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the IJB's approval of the Aberdeen City Carer's Strategy – 'A Life Alongside Caring' which is attached as Appendix B and to provide an overview of next steps in relation to the strategy implementation subject to that approval.

2: Summary of Key Information

- 2.1 On 1st April 2018 The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 (the "2016 Act") comes into effect. The 2016 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 draft strategy was considered at the IJB meeting on 12th December 2017 and approval was given to undertake public consultation. The consultation ran for 6 weeks and a synopsis of the responses is provided in Appendix A. Short summaries of both the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 and the Aberdeen City Carers Strategy were prepared as easy read versions and these were distributed along with the full draft strategy throughout the partnership, Aberdeen City Council and NHS Grampian (also utilising the Public Involvement Network). They were posted on the



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partnership website and members of the Carers Strategy Steering Group and the Strategic Planning Group used their websites and networks to promote the consultation. This coverage extended to partner providers including the current provider of the commissioned service for Carers Support (Voluntary Services Aberdeen) and provider representative organisations including Scottish Care and Aberdeen Council for Voluntary Organisations (ACVO). A presentation was delivered on the strategy to the Care Home Forum organised by Scottish Care at their request.

- 2.4 Aberdeen City Council retains responsibility for young carers. The Education and Children's Services Committee approved the strategy for further consultation at their meeting on 25th January 2018 and the Young Carer Development Group subsequently undertook their own consultation with young people attending both Primary and Secondary education.
- 2.5 Although the number of responses is limited, this is not uncommon in an exercise of this type and it should be noted that some responses are a collation from representative organisations notably Scottish Care and Voluntary Services Aberdeen. Aberdeen City Education and Children's Services also submitted a single response via the Young Carers Development Group. It is encouraging that a spread of responses was received from individuals, from carers, from staff, from partners and from providers.
- 2.6 All submissions received a response and those comments relevant to be incorporated were used to develop the final draft for approval contained in Appendix B. Most of the amendments made to the strategy are in relation to formatting and presentation. The IJB will note that a Foreword has been added and that some of the introductory chapters have been merged and streamlined. The section on consultation and engagement has been augmented particularly in relation to the consultation undertaken with children and young people. We have tried to break up the large amount of text into smaller, easier to read sections and have renamed some of the chapters. A "Strategy at a Glance" section has been added for those who are not inclined to read the whole document.



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- 2.7 The final draft strategy for approval contains the Action Plan. This was omitted from the consultation draft pending confirmation of the funding available and its omission was a common feature of the responses received. We now have confirmation that the Scottish Government is providing additional budget totalling £725,000 in financial year 2018/19 to fund the implementation of the Carer's Strategy for both Young and Adult Carers. This budget incorporates the Carer Information Strategy (CIS) funding, which has previously been allocated to NHS Boards, and is in addition to the current funding that the partnership provides to the commissioned service.
- 2.8 At present it is difficult to estimate how this funding will be allocated. Whilst we are aware of the number of Adult and Young Carers that we currently provide support to, we are aware that there are potentially large numbers of unpaid carers who do not identify as such and have yet to come forward seeking support. The Carers Act places a duty on us to assist and encourage people to identify as carers and to provide personalised support should they wish it. The type of support required will be individual to each circumstance and not all carers will accept support even if they are identified. Any charge for support provided to carers to meet their personal outcomes is required to be waived under the legislation. At this time there remains a lack of clarity as to how this affects the charging for respite care currently provided to cared-for people which could be classed as replacement care to enable the carer to have a break from caring and meet their personal outcomes under the new arrangements. The cared-for person is currently charged a minimal per night contribution for respite care. If this care is subsequently identified as replacement care to meet the carers personal outcomes no charge could be made.
- 2.9 It is proposed that the lump sum additional funding is held centrally within the IJB budget and that an allocation process as per that agreed in relation to integration transformation funding is adopted to prioritise and approve the allocation of the monies. Business Cases will be developed and submitted for the allocation of funding and it is proposed that the Chief Officer brings back further detail of this allocation process to the May meeting of the IJB.



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- 2.10 Whilst demand under the new arrangements is unknown, a key element in determining affordability is the Eligibility Criteria that is set for carers receiving support. This is currently being finalised however a draft Adult Carer Support Planning and Eligibility Criteria is attached at Appendix C. The Integration Scheme needs to be revised to enable the IJB to approve the Eligibility Criteria for carers. Aberdeen City Council and NHS Grampian have approved the required amendments and the revised Scheme is currently awaiting approval by Scottish Ministers. The finalised Eligibility Criteria will come back to the IJB for approval in May 2018. The Eligibility Criteria is designed to ensure that funding is targeted at those who need it most. In the spirit of the legislation we are of the view that all carers are eligible for support but for those with a lower level of need the support they receive may well be in the form of existing services such as citizens or benefits advice or in community support groups that are not funded from the partnership's budget.
- 2.11 Operational processes and procedures have been revised to facilitate the launch of both the 2016 Act and the strategy and these include arrangements for emergency and future planning for carers; particular cognisance for those caring for the terminally ill; and increased involvement of carers in the hospital discharge process. The information and advice available for carers is being reviewed and updated and staff training and awareness sessions are planned for April 2018. In addition, work is ongoing to enable us to meet the new requirements for data submission for the annual Carers Census.
- 2.12 The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 requires us to produce and publish a Short Breaks Services Statement (SBSS) by 31st December 2018. A national SBSS Think Tank has been set up and the Lead Strategy and Performance Manager is part of that. Work is ongoing at the monthly meetings of this group to develop a best practice template for all local authority and partnership areas to use. The group have meetings scheduled until mid-May 2018 and it is hoped that the output of the work will be shared by the end of June 2018. It is proposed that the SBSS for Aberdeen will be brought to the October meeting of the IJB for approval.
- 2.13 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, the



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final strategy will also be submitted to the Operational Delivery Committee of Aberdeen City Council (which is the new committee under the Council's transformation programme that has responsibility for Education and Children's Services) on 29th May 2018. 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. The strategy could be published as a draft in advance of the subsequent approvals.

- 2.14 There are events planned nationally to launch the new legislation. Considering the approval process and timescale noted above it is intended to formally launch Aberdeen City's Carers Strategy during Carers Week which this year is 11th – 17th June 2018. Progress on the implementation of the Carers Strategy will be driven by the Carers Strategy Implementation Group and monitored by the Clinical and Care Governance Committee. Progress will also be reported to the IJB as part of the reporting arrangements agreed for all strategy implementation.

Appendices

- A) Carer's Strategy Final Draft for Approval
- B) Summary of Consultation
- C) Draft Adult Carer Support Planning and Eligibility Criteria for Carers

3: Equalities, Financial, Workforce and Other Implications

Financial Implications

£725,000 is being made available in financial year 2018/19. This incorporates the Carer Information Strategy (CIS) funding, which has previously been allocated to NHS Boards and is in addition to the current funding that the partnership provides to the commissioned service for Carer Support.

Equalities Implications

An Equalities & Human Rights Impact Assessment has been completed in respect of the Carers Strategy and this confirmed no adverse impact.



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Workforce Implications

The Carers (Scotland) 2016 Act and the Aberdeen City Carers Strategy bring a number of new and different obligations for staff. Dedicated resource is available to ensure both the Act and the strategy are implemented. Appropriate information and training will be given to all staff along with revised tools and processes.

Legal Implications

Aberdeen City Council and NHS Grampian have approved amendments to the Integration Scheme to allow the duties under the Carers (Scotland) 2016 Act to be formally delegated to the IJB. The revised Scheme is currently awaiting approval by Scottish Ministers.

4: Management of Risk

Identified risk(s):

Link to risk number on strategic or operational risk register:

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

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

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

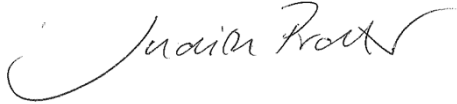

It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board:

1. Approves the final draft of the Aberdeen City Carers Strategy.
2. Approves the next steps in relation to the launch and implementation of the Aberdeen City Carers Strategy.



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3. Instructs the Chief Officer to bring back further detail of the funding prioritisation and allocation process to the May meeting of the IJB.
4. Instructs the Chief Officer to submit the finalised Eligibility Criteria for Carers to the May meeting of the IJB.
5. Instructs the Chief Officer to submit the Aberdeen City Short Breaks Services Statement to the IJB meeting in October 2018.

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