



Integration Joint Board

Report Title	Carers Eligibility Criteria and Funding Allocation Process
Lead Officer	Sally Shaw, Interim Chief Officer
Report Author	Alison MacLeod, Lead Strategy and Performance Manager, ACHSCP
Report Number	HSCP/18/031
Date of Report	16 th April 2018
Date of Meeting	22 nd May 2018

1: Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the IJB's approval of the Carer's Eligibility Criteria which is attached as Appendix A and to approve the process for managing and allocating the 2018/19 funding received for the implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016.

2: Summary of Key Information

- 2.1 On 1st April 2018 the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 (the "2016 Act") came 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. The IJB approved the Aberdeen City Carers Strategy – A Life Alongside Caring at its meeting on 27th March 2018. The strategy is awaiting approval in respect of Young Carers from the Operational Delivery Committee of Aberdeen City Council on 29th May 2018 before being officially launched during Carers Week 11th – 17th June 2018.
- 2.3 The 2016 Act also requires Eligibility Criteria for Carers to be published. This is in addition, and separate, to the Eligibility Criteria for a Social Care Services and relates specifically to Carers. As intimated at the IJB



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Meeting on 27th March 2018, the Health and Social Care Integration Scheme for Aberdeen City has been amended to reflect changes in legislation brought about by the 2016 Act. This includes delegating the authority to the IJB to approve the Eligibility Criteria for Carers.

- 2.4 As the Eligibility Criteria is so closely linked to the Adult Carer Support Planning Process, one document has been produced covering both aspects, however, it is only the Eligibility Criteria aspects of Appendix A that require IJB approval.
- 2.5 In advance of the 2016 Act, the National Carers Organisations (NCO) developed a Best Practice Framework for Local Eligibility Criteria for Carers and the Scottish Government produced Statutory Guidance on Local Eligibility Criteria which was informed by the NCO Framework. Aberdeen City's Eligibility Criteria for Carers was developed, using both the framework and the guidance as reference, by a sub group of the Carers Strategy Steering Group which included the IJB carer representatives and a representative from our commissioned Carers Support Service.
- 2.6 The Eligibility Criteria for Carers is set along the same lines as for those receiving a Social Care Service, that is, that only those with critical or substantial needs will receive a funded service. It should be noted, however, that measures are being put in place to improve the information and advice available to carers and to enhance existing support for carers in the community. Carers with low and moderate needs will still receive assistance and support but this will not necessarily be a funded service.
- 2.7 At the IJB meeting on 27th March 2018 it was confirmed that we have 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.
- 2.8 It was also highlighted that new demand generated by both the 2016 Act and our Carer's Strategy was unknown and difficult to predict. This, in turn, made it difficult to estimate how the additional funding would be allocated. It was proposed that the Chief Officer brought back further detail of an allocation process to the May meeting of the IJB. This is attached at Appendix B "Managing our Carers Implementation Funding".



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2.9 Discussion has subsequently taken place between the Chief Finance Officer, the Lead Social Work Officer and the Director of Resources for Aberdeen City Council (ACC). It has been agreed that an initial amount of the additional funding (£150,000) will be ring fenced for Young Carers. The amount will be reviewed after 6 months to determine whether it is appropriate given the demand profile for these services. Any spend which benefits both young and adult carers will be split using an appropriate basis of apportionment against the two allocations. The implementation of the strategy will continue to be developed jointly by both the partnership and ECS

Appendices

- A) Aberdeen City Eligibility Criteria for Carers
- B) Managing Carer Implementation Funding

3: Equalities, Financial, Workforce and Other Implications

Financial Implications

The Eligibility Criteria for Carers is set along the same lines as for those receiving a Social Care Service, that is, that only those with critical or substantial needs will receive a funded service. It should be noted, however, that measures are being put in place to improve the information and advice available to carers and to enhance existing support for carers in the community. Carers with low and moderate needs will still receive assistance and support but this will not necessarily be a funded service.

£725,000 additional funding is being made available in financial year 2018/19. This is for both adult and young carers. It is proposed that this funding will be allocated using the process described in Appendix B.

As described in the Carers Strategy paper discussed at IJB on 27th March 2018 there remains a lack of clarity around guidance for the waiving of charges for respite care. This matter is being discussed at a national level. The Chief Officer



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was requested to develop local guidelines in relation to this and these will be brought back to a future meeting of the IJB.

Equalities Implications

An Equalities & Human Rights Impact Assessment has been completed in respect of the Carers Strategy, which incorporated the elements of the Eligibility Criteria, and this confirmed there is no adverse impact on anyone with protected characteristics.

Workforce Implications

The 2016 Act and the Aberdeen City Carers Strategy bring a number of new and different obligations for staff. The Eligibility Criteria for Carers is also a new way of working. Dedicated resource is available to ensure both the Act and the strategy are implemented. Appropriate information and training is being given to all staff along with revised tools and processes.

Legal Implications

The IJB is legally obliged under the 2016 Act to publish local Eligibility Criteria for Carers.

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


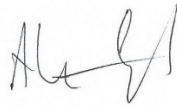
How might the content of this report impact or mitigate the known risks:

Approving the Eligibility Criteria for Carers ensures the IJB will meet their legislative duty under the 2016 Act.



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5:	Recommendations for Action
<p>It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="272 734 916 772">1. Approves the Eligibility Criteria for Carers.<li data-bbox="272 819 1230 857">2. Approves the Managing Carer Implementation Funding process.	

6: Signatures	
	Sally Shaw (Interim Chief Officer)
	Alex Stephen (Chief Finance Officer)