

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Strategic Commissioning Committee
DATE	13 September 2018
REPORT TITLE	Young Carers Service
REPORT NUMBER	COM/18/108
DIRECTOR	Rob Polkinghorne
REPORT AUTHOR	Graeme Simpson
TERMS OF REFERENCE	Purpose 1 and 2 and remit 3.4

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval to (1) initiate a procurement process to commission an external service for Young Carers; and (2) to set up a Young Carers Grant Programme.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that Committee:

- (i) Instruct the Chief Officer for Integrated Children & Family Services, following consultation with the Head of Commercial and Procurement Services, to undertake a procurement process to appoint a supplier of a service to Young Carers who don't meet the eligibility for a social work service;
- (ii) Approve the estimated expenditure of £550,000 as detailed in this report and appended procurement business case; and
- (iii) Delegate authority to the Chief Officer – Integrated Children's and Family Services, following consultation with the Chief Officer - Finance, to set up a Young Carers Grant Programme at a sum of £25,000 for each financial year until 2023 for the Young Carers Service to apply for a grant on behalf of a young person and/or their family; and to set the criteria for the awarding of funding from the Grant Programme.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 A report was submitted to the Operational Delivery Committee on 29 May 2018 seeking approval of the Aberdeen City Carer's Strategy – 'A Life Alongside Caring'. Part of the strategy covered the new legislative responsibilities to Young Carers. The strategy was approved by Committee having previously been approved by the Integrated Joint Board. One of the decisions of Committee was to instruct Officers to

bring back further detail to the Strategic Commissioning Committee on how it proposed to deliver on the needs on Young Carers.

- 3.2 On 1 April 2018, the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 came into effect. It extends and enhances the rights of Carers in Scotland to help improve their health and well-being so that they may continue to care and have a life alongside caring. The 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 Aberdeen City strategy was developed in consultation with young people including some young carers. It highlighted that young carers often experienced a range of conflicting emotions: from depression, worry and loneliness; to feelings of happiness and pride that they can support a loved one. They also told us what might stop a young carer seeking support, which included bullying and lack of peer understanding; lack of teacher understanding; not knowing where or who to seek support from; or being taken away from their parents, or their parents may be placed in a home.
- 3.3 In terms of the support that they would want, young people frequently said that they would recognise Universal Services as a point of contact, or their Pupil Support Assistant (PSA), extended family, social work or ChildLine. The sort of help that they would want included: better communication between their guidance and teaching staff; support with their homework; a quiet space within school; someone to talk to, such as a Befriender; or a holiday with their family.
- 3.4 From a young carer's perspective the Action Plan accompanying the Strategy included three key stages:
 - I. **Think Young Carers** – including piloting the Young Carers Toolkit with schools and other services; introducing the Young Carers Statement; providing training for staff to develop their awareness and recognition of the needs of Young Carers.
 - II. **Support Young Carers** – developing information and advice; creating opportunities for support groups and short breaks; involving young carers in the commissioning of new services.
 - III. **Make a difference for Young Carers** – reviewing use of Young Carers Statements; updating consultation; promoting greater awareness amongst the wider community.
- 3.5 To coincide with Carers Week (11-17 June) the Young Carers Toolkit was launched at a multi-agency event. The toolkit will be piloted over the remainder of 2018 and an evaluation undertaken to consider whether any further development is required.
- 3.6 To support the implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 Aberdeen City received £725,000 from the Scottish Government. Of this, £150,000 has been allocated to develop services to support Young Carers. (This is recurring funding.) Given that the majority of young carers in Aberdeen City are not known to the social work service, nor would they meet the eligibility criteria for a social work service, it is officers' view that it not appropriate for this service to be delivered in-

house. Referrals to the service need to be accessible to Universal Services and other relevant professionals i.e. School Nurse; Health Visitor or Community Worker. Given that eligibility is determined by the professional completion of a Young Carers Statement, self-referrals are not appropriate.

- 3.7 It is therefore proposed to go out to tender inviting bids for the delivery of a Young Carers service which meets the needs of Young Carers including those needs they themselves identified. In recognition that some young carers may want to access a direct grant to pay for activities or a short break it is proposed that £25,000 of the £150,000 be retained each year to enable the Young Carers Service to apply for a grant on behalf of the young person and/or their family. It is recommended that delegate authority be given to the Chief Officer – Integrated Children’s and Family Services, following consultation with the Chief Officer - Finance, to set up a Young Carers Grant Programme and to set the criteria for the awarding of funding from the Grant Programme. The Grant Programme would be open for a period of four years and three months to coincide with the proposed length of the tender process.
- 3.8 While there was a successful launch of the Young Carers Toolkit in June 2018 it is recognised that in the first year it will be necessary to promote the service and support universal services consider the needs of Young Carers through the use and embedment of the toolkit. While some element of promotion of the service will need to continue beyond the first year it would be hoped that other agencies will have fuller appreciation of the needs of Young Carers and embedded the toolkit by the end of the first year.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Committee approval is sought for expenditure of (1) £125,000 per annum for a period of four years and three months for the commissioning of the service and (2) £25,000 per annum for a period of four years and three months for the Young Carers Grant Programme both of which will be delivered from within the available recurring monies awarded by the Scottish Government and which have been allocated to the Young Carers - £150,000.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 As noted above the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 came into effect. The Act extended and enhanced the rights of carers in Scotland, including Young Carers to help improve their health and well-being so that they may continue to care and have a life alongside caring. Failure to develop a service which can support and meet the needs of Young Carers will result in the Local Authority failing to deliver on its new statutory duties and deliver on the approved Carers Strategy Action Plan.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

	Risk	Low (L), Medium (M), High (H)	Mitigation
Financial	The allocation of funds to support the implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016, as it applies to Young Carers, has been agreed. It is felt that £150,000 per annum will enable an effective service to be delivered.	L	The Scottish Government has indicated that the amount allocated to support the implementation of the Act is likely to rise. It would be anticipated that any rise proportionately impacts on the money available to Young Carers. It is anticipated that this increase in money proportionately reflects the increase of visible Young Carers in need of support.
Legal	The Local Authority has a duty to provide services to support Young Carers. An Action Plan has been agreed	L	The Carers Strategy – A Life Alongside Caring, ensures that the Council will meet its legislative duties.
Employee	The launch of the Young Carers Toolkit has begun to enable staff across Aberdeen City’s Children’s Services Partnership to be better aware of the needs of Young Carers.	L	The Toolkit is being piloted over the course of the next 6 months to inform its future use and development. It would be expected that the commissioning of a new service for Young Carers will continue to assist in raising the profile of young carers across the multiagency partnership.
Customer	Young Carers are a vulnerable group of young people whose needs require to be recognised and met.	L	The Toolkit will assist professionals understand and recognise their needs in order that the new service can offer appropriate support. The Toolkit will also support the identification of hidden Young Carers.
Environment	There are none.		
Technology	There are none		
Reputational	There is a risk that if the Council does not develop appropriate services to		The Carers Strategy – A Life Alongside Caring, ensures

	meet the needs of Young Carers then this will be highlighted by regulatory bodies and by the public.		that the Council will meet its legislative duties.
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7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes	
	Impact of Report
Prosperous Economy	The impact of caring upon those young carers who carry out this role will be reduced enabling them to better fulfil their education or employment aspirations within need to improve the City's Development of a Young Workforce.
Prosperous People	Opportunities for improved outcomes for children and families within the city, affected by the impact of caring will be maximised, by the availability of increased levels of recognition and support.

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
Customer Service Design	Young Carers have been actively consulted in the development of the Carers Strategy. Their views and needs will be reflected within the tender process. The Young Carers Toolkit will enable staff to understand their roles and responsibilities in relation to this vulnerable group and will support them to deliver high quality services in response.
Organisational Design	The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 Implementation Group represents staff and thus services, from across a range of agencies, but in particular from the Council and the IJB.
Governance	There are none.
Workforce	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 that both the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 and the strategy are implemented. Appropriate information and training will continue to be given to all staff along with revised tools and processes.
Process Design	There are none.
Partnerships and Alliances	The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 Implementation Group represents staff and thus services, from across a range of agencies, including the Council and the IJB. The Group has and will continue to seek the views of carers in driving forward implementation of the strategy.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	Completed 16-8-18
Privacy Impact Assessment	Not applicable
Children's Rights Impact Assessment/Duty of Due Regard	Ongoing

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Operational Delivery Committee Report - 29 May 2018

10. APPENDICES

Procurement Business Case

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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