

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Operational Delivery
DATE	14 March 2019
REPORT TITLE	Young Carers Service - Update
REPORT NUMBER	CUS/19/086
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CHIEF OFFICER	Graeme Simpson
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TERMS OF REFERENCE	Remit 1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Committee with an update on the Young Carers Service as requested by Committee on 29 May 2018.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Note the update within the report.

3. BACKGROUND

Commissioning of a Young Carers Service

- 3.1 To support the implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016, Aberdeen City received £725,000 from the Scottish Government. Of this, £150,000 was allocated to develop services to support Young Carers. (This is recurring funding). 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. Referrals to the service need to be accessible to the Named Person 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.

- 3.2 The proposal to tender the Young Carers Service was approved by the Strategic Commissioning Committee on 13 September 2018. This process has now concluded, and the tender was won by Barnardo's who are recruiting staff and aim to start delivering the service from 1 April 2019. It will be necessary, in the first year to promote the new service; support universal services; and consider the needs of Young Carers through the use and embedment of the toolkit. Whilst promotion of the service will need to continue beyond the first year, it is hoped that other agencies will have a fuller appreciation of the needs of Young Carers and embed the toolkit by the end of the first year.

The Young Carers Toolkit

- 3.3 From a young carer's perspective the Action Plan accompanying the Carer's Strategy included three key stages:

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;

Support Young Carers – developing information and advice; creating opportunities for support groups and short breaks; and involving young carers in the commissioning of new services; and

Make a difference for Young Carers – reviewing use of Young Carers Statements; updating consultation; and promoting greater awareness amongst the wider community.

- 3.4 The Young Carers toolkit was initially originally launched in June 2018 and was piloted over the remainder of 2018 with an evaluation undertaken thereafter to consider whether any further development was required. Changes were made to the toolkit on the basis of feedback from the consultation period and the toolkit (attached as **Appendix A**) was fully launched on 23 January 2019 at a multi-agency event and is now live across the City. This will be further developed by Barnardo's in consultation with other agencies and Young Carers in the first twelve months of the new service.

The Young Carers Small Grant

- 3.5 The proposed proportion of the £150,000 (£25,000) that is being retained each year to enable the Young Carers Service to apply for a grant on behalf of the young person and/or their family was also approved at the Strategic Commissioning Committee on 13 September 2018. The process for this is being developed and takes account of Delegated Power 24 (General Delegations to Chief Officers). This is being managed through Aberdeen City Council's Financial Assistance process. Applications can be made by the Young Carers Service to for any child or young person aged 5 - 18 who are in education in Aberdeen and either identify themselves as a Young Carer or are identified as a Young Carer by schools or education practitioners working with them and have agreed to having a Young Carers Statement.

- 3.6 There is no definitive criteria but the following are examples of what sort of activities financial assistance might be applied for:
- 3.6.1 Activities that give the young person respite from their caring role e.g. sports, sports equipment, art classes, art equipment or a short break with or without the cared for person.
- 3.6.2 This aspect of the service is being developed in consultation with Young Carers to ensure that we meet their needs. There have been no funds applied for to date as the service is not implemented.

Continuing Professional Development/Awareness Raising

- 3.7 A Continuing Professional Development video was commissioned by the Council to start raising awareness of the profile of hidden young carers immediately. It was also launched at the multi-agency event on 23 January 2019. It can be used with practitioners and young people.

Summary

- 3.8 There has been real progress in providing support to Aberdeen's Young Carers; the commissioning of the new service; and developing and launching the Young Carers toolkit and statement. It is also encouraging to note that there has been an increase in the number of Young Carers identified on the SEEMiS case management system since the Strategy was launched (**Table 1**).

Table 1

2014/15	3
2015/16	5
2016/17	9
2017/18	12
2018/19 – year to date	29

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 At its meeting on 13 September 2018, the Strategic Commissioning Committee approved 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.
- 4.2 Following a commissioning process, Barnardo's were awarded the tender and will deliver the Young Carers Service from 1 April 2019 until 31 March 2023. As a result, contractual funding will only be required for four years rather than four

years and three months as approved by the Strategic Commissioning Committee on 13 September 2018.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 came into effect on 1 April 2018. 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 Council 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 Council 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 statutory 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 was piloted for six months to inform its development and was fully launched on 23 January 2019 at a multi-agency event and is now live across the City. It is 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 the needs of Young Carers in order that the new service can offer appropriate support. The Toolkit will also support identification.
Environment	N/A		
Technology	N/A		
Reputational	There is a risk that if the Council does not develop appropriate services to meet the needs of Young Carers then this will be highlighted by regulatory bodies and by the public.	L	The Carers Strategy – A Life Alongside Caring, ensures that the Council meets its statutory duties.

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 and their views and needs were reflected within the tender process. The Young Carers Toolkit enables 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 IJB.
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.
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 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	EHRIA sent to Equalities Team on 11 February 2019.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	not required
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	not applicable

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

OPE.18.022, Carers Strategy, Operational Delivery Committee - 29 May 2018

COM.18.108, Young Carers Service, Strategic Commissioning Committee – 13 September 2018

10. APPENDICES

Appendix A: Think Young Carer: Multi Agency Toolkit to Support Young Carers – January 2019

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