



CÙRAM IS SLÀINTE NAN EILEAN SIAR

WESTERN ISLES HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP

Carers Strategy

Report by Chief Officer, Health and Social Care

20 June 2019

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 To provide an update on the implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016.

COMPETENCE

- 2 In accordance with the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 Statutory Guidance, key responsibilities have been completed as required specifically in relation to the publication of eligibility criteria and a short breaks statement. The preparation of a local Carers Strategy is the outstanding requirement for each local authority and relevant health board, delegated to Integration Joint Boards under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Amendment (No.2) Regulations 2017. It is proposed to present the Strategy to the September 2019 meeting of the Joint Board.
- 3 There are no legal or HR implications associated with the recommendations. The Integration Joint Board has £65,784 ring fenced for Carers Strategy development in reserves, the ongoing resources for Carers Act duties are included in the annual settlements to the Integration Joint Board through the local authority. The 2018/2019 settlement included an allocation of £427k for a number of service developments, including £117k for Carers Act responsibilities. This funding is baselined within the Comhairle budget and has not been transferred to the IJB baseline as it was discretionary funding. The 2019/2020 settlement included £68k for the Carers Act, within a figure of £900k to be attributed to a number of duties. This allocation is within the Joint Board's revenue budget. It is proposed to utilise the Carers Act resources to implement the Strategy within the governance processes associated with the Integrated Corporate Management Team.

SUMMARY

- 4 The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 came into force on 1 April 2018 placing many new legislative requirements on the Western Isles Health and Social Care Partnership. Section 31 of the Act places a duty on local authorities and relevant health boards to jointly prepare a local Carers Strategy. The draft Strategy is currently subject to refinement in collaboration with partners and stakeholders.
- 5 The first local Carers Strategy is to be published before the end of the relevant period (within the meaning of section 37(10) of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014) during which section 31 comes into force. That period is the period of 3 years, beginning with whichever is the later, of the day on which the Local Authority and relevant Health Board last published their local Carers Strategy. The Strategy should have been presented to the April meeting; however, the delay will allow a comprehensive review of the Strategy and Action Plan to enable ownership to be embedded by all stakeholders engaged in improving support and services for carers.





CÙRAM IS SLÀINTE NAN EILEAN SIAR

WESTERN ISLES HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP

- 6 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is currently in draft for consideration as the Strategy is finalised. There are no negative impacts identified to date.
- 7 It should be noted that the Strategy is for Carers of all ages. As children's services provided by the Comhairle sit outwith the scope of the Integration Joint Board, this Strategy has been developed with input from Education and Children's Services, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, and will follow the associated governance processes.
- 8 The Carers Strategy will set out the strategic direction with a structured plan in place to identify priorities for work to be taken forward. Leading this work will be the Carers Group which has representation from carers, third sector, Carers organisation and statutory partners across social work, children's services and health. It is proposed that this Group will continue to operate as the Carers Strategy Group responsible for implementing the Strategy and reporting to the Integrated Corporate Management Team in the first instance.

BACKGROUND

- 9 The aim of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 is for Adult and Young Carers to be better supported on a more consistent basis so they are enabled to continue to care, if they so wish, in good health and to have a life alongside caring. For Young Carers, the intention is similar to that of Adult Carers but that Young Carers will have a childhood similar to their peers who do not have caring responsibilities. The Act commenced on 1 April 2018.
- 10 The Act defines a Carer as an individual who provides or intends to provide care for another individual (the "cared-for person"). The Act has removed the substantial and regular test which was used in previous legislation to define the caring roles and the requirement that the cared-for person must access community care services in their own right. In doing so the Act expands on who can be defined as a Carer and supports a greater focus on the impact that caring has on the Carer as well as the Personal Outcomes related to the caring role.
- 11 The Act confers a number of duties upon Local Authorities and Health Boards, which have been described in a previous report to the Integration Joint Board on 22 March 2018. In summary, the Act describes the requirement to deliver:
 - Adult Carer Support Plans which set out the carer's identified personal outcomes, identified needs and the support to be provided to the Adult Carer.
 - Young Carer Statements which set out the Young Carer's identified personal outcomes, needs and the support to be provided to the Young Carer.
 - The provision of information and advice.
 - Local eligibility criteria which provides information about access to support.
 - Involvement of Carers in discharge planning for the cared-for person.
 - A Carers Strategy.
- 12 In 2017/2018, 87 Carer Assessments were completed. In 2018/2019 a total of 95 Carer Plans have been completed. This level of growth is in keeping with the anticipated uptake; however, given the level of informal carers sustaining care





CÙRAM IS SLÀINTE NAN EILEAN SIAR

WESTERN ISLES HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP

arrangements, the benefits of engaging in the preparation of a plan requires to be embedded across statutory and non-statutory partners and practice. The consistent challenge locally and nationally is to identify carers and encourage individuals and families to consider their needs as carers at an early stage in their caring role. A key feature of the Strategy will be to agree actions to address this matter to enable carers' health and well-being have prominence in the consideration of supports to sustain families and individuals.

- 13 The Integration Joint Board commissions through the Comhairle a number of Service Level Agreements to support carers and service users without the requirement to meet statutory eligibility criteria. The key organisations are the Western Isles Community Care Forum, Cobhair Bharraigh, Tagsa Uibhist, Crossroads Harris and Crossroads Lewis. The level of support includes information sharing, training and respite care. The Short Break Statement includes information on the levels of support available and the activity data provided by the organisations will be included in the Strategy.
- 14 Residential respite services are provided at Bethesda Nursing Home (9 beds); Harris House (1 bed); Leverburgh Care Home (1 bed); Trianaid Care Home (1 bed); Taigh a' Chridhe Uile Naomh (1 bed); St Brendan's Care Home (1 bed). However, depending on the demand for services, the use of permanent and respite beds can change to meet the need. The Ardseileach Care Home provides 4 respite beds for learning disability service users. The proposed care home at Goathill has 11 respite beds included in the care campus, with the 9 currently in Bethesda to revert to permanent nursing beds.
- 15 Through the Self Directed Support Act, service users have four options to commission their care arrangements. The most popular options are for the Comhairle to arrange the commissioning of the care or the provision of a direct payment to enable the recipient to make their own arrangements. In addition to the externally delivered services, as outlined at section 13 of the Report, external respite related services were commissioned. In 2018/2019 853 hours (£14k) were commissioned from an external provider for overnight respite at home in Lewis. 1478 hours (£36,933) of respite were commissioned in Uist for respite services at varying times of the day.
- 16 The way in which data management systems capture reporting on other respite services through the Self Directed Support options hinders extrapolation of the information. However, the pending upgrade to a new system will enable enhanced management reports to be produced. In addition, work is ongoing through social work reviews to review the care arrangements to make explicit the inclusion of replacement care for respite for the carer. Historically, for example, replacement care would be in place but classified in some cases as personal care for the service user. The dual benefit of day care services continues to be a feature in care planning for individuals and is an area to be developed for mutual benefit for the cared for and the carer.
- 17 Associated with the implementation of the Act is the Carers Census. Baseline data is gathered and submitted every 6 months from local authorities and carer centres. The Strategy will provide trend data as submitted to date. This will enable a context to be applied to the Action Plan and underpin the direction of travel in relation to improvements in support for carers and their families. Appendix 1 provides the data





CÙRAM IS SLÀINTE NAN EILEAN SIAR

WESTERN ISLES HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP

submitted and quality assured through local processes for the period up to September 2018. The full data for 2018/2019 is due for publication this month.

CONCLUSION

- 18 The key features of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 are being implemented with the outstanding action relating to the production of the Carers Strategy. Work is ongoing to work collaboratively with partner organisations to have shared ownership of the Carers Strategy and Action Plan and it is intended to present this to the September meeting of the Joint Board. Critically, the improvements to be pursued through the Strategy and Plan must enhance the supports available for carers through statutory and non-statutory processes.

RECOMMENDATION

- 19 It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board notes the content of the Report.

Appendix 1 Carer Census Analysis

Emma Macsween
01851 822781
Head of Partnership Services
CÙRAM IS SLÀINTE

