



REPORT TO: MORAY INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD CLINICAL AND CARE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ON 31 AUGUST 2023

SUBJECT: PROGRESS UPDATE IN RELATION TO THE UNPAID CARER STRATEGY 2023-2027

BY: SELF DIRECTED SUPPORT AND UNPAID CARER OFFICER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1. To inform the Clinical and Care Governance Committee in relation to the progress of the current work being undertaken in line with the Moray Carers Strategy 2023 - 2026 Implementation Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1. It is recommended that the Clinical and Care Governance Committee consider and note:

- i) the current progress relating to the Carers Strategy Implementation Plan; and**
- ii) the impact on unpaid carers in Moray**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 requires all integration joint boards to have a local carers strategy, which sets out plans to identify carers, provide information about local support, and provide support and services. The Moray Carers Strategy 2023-2026 was approved at the Moray Integration Joint Board (MIJB) on 31 March 2023 (para 11 of the minute refers) following engagement with unpaid carers.
- 3.2. A local action plan was developed, identifying the key outcomes under the three strategic priorities; Recognition for Carers, Valuing Carers and Supporting Carers.

4. KEY MATTERS RELEVANT TO RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1. The high level action plan in support of the strategy has been developed into an implementation plan, presented and approved at the MIJB on 25 May 2023 (para 12 of the minute refers).

- 4.2. There is a requirement for the current commissioned carer's service to be re-tendered. This work is currently being finalised for the notification to be published on Public Contracts Scotland (PCS). The new service specification has been aligned to some of the key activities identified within the Moray Carers Strategy 2023-2026, (*Carers Implementation Plan Priority 1; 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 1.7; Priority 2, 2.5, 2.6; Priority 3; 3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8*)
- 4.3. Through Strategy consultation engagement held with unpaid carers, individuals registered their interest to be an active participant of the Carers Voice Group, with the first meeting due to take place week beginning 21 August 2023. Draft Terms of Reference have been developed for the group which will be discussed at the first meeting. The primary meeting will be chaired by the Self-Directed Support (SDS) & Unpaid Carers Officer / Unpaid Carers Representative for the MIJB, with a discussion held to confirm chair and vice chair at the first meeting (*Carers Implementation Plan Priority 2; 2.1.1*).
- 4.4. The carer's team are currently evaluating current process and practice against the statutory guidance to accompany the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016. One area for focus centres around the process once an unpaid carer has met eligibility for SDS, this being both a duty and a power within the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016. Where eligibility is met, the carer must be given the opportunity to choose one of the options of SDS to receive their agreed support (unless ineligible to receive a Direct Payment), (*Carers Implementation Plan Priority 3; 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.6.5, 3.6.6*).
- 4.5. At present all carers receive their support via Option 1 (Direct Payments) with a single value budget allocated to all carers. In order to effectively evaluate this part of the process the Carers Team are working alongside Social Work Scotland (SWS) as one of three evaluation sites (alongside Highland and East Ayrshire HSCP's) to test out the draft self-evaluation framework for improvement. The framework supports to answer how do we know what has worked and what could be improved upon with Carer SDS and whether we hold the evidence to support this. Using the common stages to evaluation; scoping (planning), preparation (planning), data collection (implementation), analyse data (completion), communicate results (disseminate and report) the Carers Team will be able to demonstrate valuable learning and development opportunities for Carer SDS. Through using this methodology and with support from the SWS SDS team, we have already highlighted the need to carry out a full scoping and preparation exercise, ensuring we are not driven to a conclusion simply by interpreting the statutory guidance.
- 4.6. The self-evaluation will focus around the identification of a personal budget in line with the SDS legislation, focusing the evaluation on the national SDS Framework of Standard, the lens of this centred on Standard 12; Access to Budgets and Flexibility of Spend.
- 4.7. Prior to the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016, there was a power for local authorities to provide support to unpaid carers. This has historically been through the addition of a budget within the cared for support plan without being able to clearly evidence and report on the level of funding provided to unpaid carers, or clarity on the use of the budget to directly make a positive impact on the carer. The evaluation will look to work within the current budget already identified on the cared for support plan being utilised via the Adult Carer Support Plan.

- 4.8. It is hoped through the identification of a person-centred, flexible budget, unpaid carers in Moray can be better supported to continue in their caring role, especially with the current challenges relating to the availability of adult social care. Carers may feel more able to deliver the supports to the cared for until formal care and support arrangements can be put in place.

5. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

(a) **Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP)) and Moray Integration Joint Board Strategic Plan “Partners in Care 2022 – 2032”**

Carers who are supported to carry out their role in a way that supports their own health and wellbeing and their educational and economic potential, are key to achieving the ambitions of the Moray IJB Strategy Plan, the Corporate Plan and LOIP. The strategy will support Theme 1 Objective 2 of the Moray Partners in Care strategy and supports HSCM to demonstrate impact on Outcome 6 of the National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes.

(b) **Policy and Legal**

Having a local carer strategy in place meets the legal obligation on the Moray IJB as prescribed in the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016. It also supports carer’s right to:

- Access a local information and advice service
- Be included in the hospital discharge of the person they are caring for
- Request an Adult Carer Support Plan (if over the age of 18) or a Young Carer Statement (if under aged 18 or younger)
- Access Support if they have eligible needs
- Be consulted on services for them and the person they are caring for

Compliance with Social Care (Self-Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013, the accompanying statutory guidance and SDS Framework of Standards.

(c) **Financial implications**

Annual Carer Act funding is in place to support delivery of the strategy. The actions outlined within the Strategy and Action Plan, including the commissioning of the local information and advice service, require to be delivered within the existing resource envelope and through additional, applied for, funding streams where available.

(d) **Risk Implications and Mitigation**

The provisions of the Act are considered to contribute to overall risk management across the responsibilities of the health and social care partnership. Demand for support is likely to increase significantly as more people are identified as carers. A local eligibility criteria is in place to determine whether a carer should receive formal support.

(e) **Staffing Implications**

The strategy will be delivered by the workforce in partnership with unpaid carers, the public, third and independent sectors, and the wider

community. The plan currently highlights risks due to current staffing resources.

(f) Property

None arising directly from this report.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

Carers are more likely to experience inequality of outcome and more likely to be in poor health than people who do not undertaken a caring role. The strategy aims to enhance equality of opportunity for all carers.

(h) Climate Change and Biodiversity Impacts

None arising directly from this report

(i) Directions

None arising directly from this report

(j) Consultations

Provider Services Manager, Interim Strategy and Planning Lead.
Equal Opportunities Officer, IJB Unpaid Carers Representative,
Assistant SDS and Unpaid Carers Officer

6. CONCLUSION

6.1. For Clinical Care Governance Committee to the current progress in line with the Carers Strategy 2023-2026 Implementation Plan.

Author of Report: Michelle Fleming, Self-Directed Support and Unpaid Carers
Officer

Background Papers:

Ref: