



**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
3 APRIL 2019**

SUBJECT: YOUNG CARERS STRATEGY

**BY: ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR (EDUCATION AND SOCIAL
CARE)**

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the Young Carers Strategy 2018 -2019.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (D) (2) exercising the functions of the Council as a Social Work Authority.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that Committee:-

- (i) **scrutinise and approve the Young Carers Strategy 2018-2019 and;**
- (ii) **approve the plan moving forward from 2019, for an all age strategy review to co-ordinate with the adult strategy - Carry on Caring 2016-19.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 With the implementation of The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016, new rights for unpaid carers of all ages came into effect from 1 April 2018. The purpose of this Act is to support carers with their health, wellbeing and support needs, to enable them to continue to care for the cared for person, assuming they are willing to do so. In doing so, the Act introduces several duties upon local/integrated authorities in relation to identifying and supporting carers of all ages.
- 3.2 A carer is someone who provides or intend to provide care for another person, but not if this is only because the person is under 18 years of age. There is no requirement for a carer to provide a substantial amount of care on a regular basis.
- 3.3 An adult carer is aged 18 or over, and not attending school.

- 3.4 A young carer is defined as a carer, as above, who is under the age of 18; or who is 18 or over, but still attending school.
- 3.5 The Act determines that carers must be involved in the development and preparation of a local carer strategy.
- 3.6 The Act places a duty on the local authority, or integrated authority, to provide an information and advice service for all carers, including young carers.
- 3.7 Adult carers have a right to an 'Adult Carer Support Plan'.
- 3.8 Young carers have a right to a 'Young Carer Statement'. The responsible authority, or integrated authority, must offer a Young Carer Statement to anyone they identify as a young carer (and prepare one if the offer is accepted). They must also prepare a Young Carer Statement for any young carer who requests one.
- 3.9 The Young Carer Statement should contain information about the young carer's circumstances and caring role, including: -
- The nature and extent of care;
 - The impact of caring on the young carer;
 - The extent to which the young carer is able and willing to provide care;
 - How far the type and extent of the care provided is appropriate;
 - What 'personal outcomes' matter to the young carer to continue to provide care;
 - The support available to young carers locally; and any support which the responsible authority intends to provide.
- 3.10 On turning 18, any Young Carer Statement continues to have an effect until an Adult Carer Support Plan is prepared, or the young person is no longer a carer.
- 3.11 The local authority of the cared-for person is responsible for providing support, although the local authority may ask or commission another organisation to provide support on its behalf, for example a local Carers Centre. Quarriers Carer Support Service (Moray) is currently commissioned by Moray Council to provide support for young carers with significant caring roles.
- 3.12 The Act establishes a process to determine whether a local authority has a duty to provide support to a young carer to meet their identified needs, through the creation of local eligibility criteria. The duty to provide support to a young carer depends upon the extent to which the young carer's needs for support meet the local eligibility criteria. If a young carer has eligible needs, the local authority must consider whether breaks from caring should be part of the support provided.
- 3.13 If a young carer's identified needs do not meet local eligibility criteria, support can be provided to meet any other needs identified in the Young Carer Statement, for example, information and advice; and/or support available via universal services in the local community.

- 3.14 In recognition of the duties imposed by the Act, a working group to progress the required developments for young carers was established between February and August 2018. Consistent with legislation, the process of consultation with young people involved a number of agencies and organisations including the third sector, and enabled the creation of several key documents relating to young carer identification and support.
- (i) Young Carers Strategy 2018-19, **APPENDIX I** was developed as a statement of intent and recognising the longer term developments required in Moray to deliver the duties of the Act. The strategy was consulted on with young carers, families and professionals in the summer of 2018: the feedback is contained within the document. This strategy document acknowledges that it exists independently of Moray's current Adult Carers Strategy – Carry on Caring 2016-19, but with the expressed intention to move forward together from 2019 with a joint approach. A previous Young Carers Strategy was an intrinsic part of Moray's Carers Strategy – Caring Together in Moray 2011-15.
 - (ii) Young Carers Eligibility Criteria, **APPENDIX I** (page 8) consulted on with young carers in Moray in early 2018.
 - (iii) A Young Carers Charter, **APPENDIX II** consulted on with young carers in Moray in summer 2018.
- 3.15 There has been a delay in reporting the Strategy for 2018-19 to Committee, in part driven by the need to make progress with the Young Carers Statement and processes.
- 3.16 A Test of Change for 18 months from March 2019, see **APPENDIX III**, funded by Carers Act implementation funds from Scottish Government, is supporting the development of the Young Carers Statement in Moray 2019-20, allowing presentation of the 2018-19 Young Carers Strategy to Committee. In addition to the development of the young carers statement, Quarriers service have also employed two workers who will pilot the young carers assessment and statement in two schools, prior to roll out across Moray.
- 3.17 The work that Quarriers has achieved to date on the draft Young Carers Statement, and the easy read version can be found at **APPENDIX IV**, and **APPENDIX V**. These are in draft and will be subject to consultation with young carers, through Quarriers service.
- 3.18 It is proposed that work progresses to develop a joint carer's strategy for carers of all ages for 2019 onwards, with Adult Services leading the development.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

This report relates to the following within the Corporate Plan 2018-2023:
- these will be re worked.

- Where life is better for everyone.
- Provide a sustainable education service aiming for excellence.
- The vision being that our children have better educational and social outcomes and so are better prepared for life.
- Improved outcomes for those most in need of support.
- Our most vulnerable young people and families are safe and nurtured.
- Public and staff have confidence in all services we provide for children and young people.

And within the Moray – 10 year Plan – LOIP: -

- Building a better future for our children and young people in Moray.
- Raising aspirations – building a better future for children and young people in Moray.
- The outcomes being that children and young people thrive; have a voice; learn; can get about; have a home; feel secure, healthy, nurtured to be supported to reach their full potential.

The related strategies: -

- Moray Children's Services Plan
- Moray Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan 2016-2019
- Community Safety Strategy
- Moray Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan

(b) Policy and Legal

The Council has responsibilities and duties to children in need and at risk through the Children and Young People's (Scotland) Act 2014 and the Children (Scotland) Act 1995. The Council also has responsibilities and duties towards young carers in terms of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016.

(c) Financial implications

Given the numbers of young carers, and the nature of their caring roles are not properly known, there may be a requirement for increased service delivery. In 2018/19, £48k was provided to cover an initial 18 month contract with Quarriers. The settlement from the Scottish Government for 2019/20 includes £108k for implementation of the Act for Adult and Young Carers

(d) Risk Implications

There are no risk implications associated with this report.

(e) Staffing Implications

There are no staffing implications.

(f) Property

There are no direct property implications associated with this report.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

The support for young carers is to promote health and wellbeing and ensure their achievement at work/school is equal to that of their peers, given the valuable role they undertake.

(h) Consultations

Senior Officers within Education and Social Care, Senior Human Resources Adviser, Paul Conner, Principal Accountant, Morag Smith, Senior Solicitor, Litigation and Social Care, Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer and the Equal Opportunities Officer have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with the content relating to their areas of responsibility.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 Committee is asked to approve the Strategy and the development of the joint strategy moving forward, which will be reported to Committee in due course.

Author of Report: Corporate Parenting & Commissioning Manager/ Service Manager for Children and Young People for Health and Social Care Partnership

Background Papers:
Ref: