



REPORT TO: MORAY INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD ON 31 OCTOBER 2019

SUBJECT: PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARERS (SCOTLAND) ACT 2016

BY: JANE MACKIE, CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER/ HEAD OF SERVICE STRATEGY AND COMMISSIONING

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Board of the progress to date to implement the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 into everyday practice in line with the duties encompassed within the Act and key areas for development. The report highlights how Health and Social Care Moray (HSCM) are committing the Scottish Government funding for Carers.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Moray Integration Joint Board (MIJB):

- i) notes the progress to date in relation to the Carers Act;
- ii) approves the developments highlighted to ensure that key duties and requirements within the Act are embedded in Moray; and
- iii) notes the use of the Scottish Government allocated funding for the implementation of the Carers Act.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 came into effect 1 April 2018 introducing new rights for unpaid carers and new duties on Local Authorities and Health Boards.
- 3.2 The duties laid down in the legislation include:
- A duty to offer an Adult Carers Support Plan to all adult carers, and a Young Carers Statement to all young carers
 - A duty to set local eligibility criteria for receipt of support
 - A duty to provide support
 - A duty to consider the need for breaks from caring

- A requirement for Local Authorities and Health Boards to involve carers in developing carer's services and in hospital discharge planning
 - A duty for Local Authorities and Health Boards to prepare a carers strategy for their area
 - A duty for Local Authorities to establish and maintain advice and information services for carers
 - A duty for Local Authorities to produce a short breaks services statement.
- 3.3 In the first year of implementation Adult Carer Support Plans replaced Carer's Assessments, with the contracted support service, Quarriers, undertaking the majority of this work. Associated processes were reviewed after 6 months with relevant stakeholders and amendments made based on recommendations and findings. These processes incorporated a local eligibility criteria, the provision of information and advice and introduction of Self-Directed Support (SDS) for Carers.
- 3.4 The requirement to waive charges for carers has been implemented.
- 3.5 Initial work was carried out with Ward 7 at Dr Gray's Hospital around the requirement to involve carers in hospital discharge planning.
- 3.6 A short breaks services statement has been developed in partnership with Integrated Children's Services.

4. KEY MATTERS RELEVANT TO RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 A review has taken place following year 1 of implementation which has allowed identification of issues and areas for development, along with recommendations for consideration. A Carers Act Implementation Action Plan has been developed, with the proposed actions highlighted in the content of this report. Cost pressures have been identified with the proposal to utilise the Scottish Government Carers Act implementation funding allocation, to progress the outstanding actions to implement the Carers Act.
- 4.2 There is a need to consider the approach to implementation to ensure that there is sufficient capacity to cope with the increased demand in volume of Adult Carer Support Plans, and the Act's requirement for all carers, previously supported through the completion of a Carer's Assessment, to have the offer of completing a new Adult Carer Support Plan within 3 years of implementation (end March 2021). In Moray, this equates to approximately 1400 carers requiring to have that opportunity. There is further increased demand to ensure that all Adult Carer Support Plans, leading to a SDS award, are reviewed on an annual basis. The current contract with the carers support service has an indicative volume of 245 Carer's Assessments/ Adult Carers Support Plans per annum. Between April 2018 - March 2019, there were 389 new carers referrals to the service, all of whom were entitled to an Adult Carers Support Plan. Therefore a significant pressure has been identified. Conversations have taken place with Quarriers and a contract variation has been agreed, taking into account procurement advice. The contract variation

will increase the funding to Quarriers so that the increased demands on the contract can be met.

- 4.3 Work will take place in line with the requirement to review the local carer's strategy with relevant consultations taking place.
- 4.4 A review is due to take place of the current carer's eligibility criteria in line with the requirement to review this on an annual basis.
- 4.5 It is planned to review the short breaks services statement in conjunction with exploring the use of the Respite Programme. Respite (respite breaks and hospitality) aims to connect local organisations that support unpaid carers with hospitality providers for example hotels, restaurants and leisure facilities. The programme is currently established in 10 Local Authority areas.
- 4.6 In line with the introduction of the waiving of charges for replacement care a local policy/ position statement will be developed taking into consideration national work which is due for completion later this year.
- 4.7 Further development work is planned to meet the duty to involve carers in hospital discharge planning. This work will take into account national work being undertaken at present.
- 4.8 An Assistant SDS Officer post, with an indicative salary grade 5, is currently being recruited to undertake the work outlined in 4.3 to 4.7.
- 4.9 A carers steering group is currently being developed with key stakeholders in attendance to enable a collaborative approach to be undertaken in the identified work streams. The group will monitor the progress of the action plan in line with the Carers Act.

5. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP)) and Moray Integration Joint Board Strategic Commissioning Plan 2016 – 2019

The recommendations in this report support the MIJB Strategic Plan, in particular outcome 6 'People who provide unpaid care are supported to look after their own health and wellbeing, including to reduce any negative impact of their caring role on their own health and wellbeing'. Key areas of focus for the MIJB during 2018/19 included the implementation of the new Carers Act and the foundations of this work now need to be built upon.

(b) Policy and Legal

The MIJB has a legal duty to promote the rights of unpaid carers through the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016.

(c) Financial implications

The cost of the variation to the Quarriers contract is £65,470. The cost of the Assistant SDS Officer is £29,924. These pressures are to be resourced from the Scottish Government funding for the implementation of the Carers Act.

(d) Risk Implications and Mitigation

Without the required additional resources identified in the Carers Act Implementation Action Plan there is a risk that the requirements and duties which form the Carers Act cannot be fully implemented.

(e) Staffing Implications

Additional staffing resource required for 1 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Assistant SDS Officer at an indicative salary of Grade 5 on a temporary basis.

(f) Property

There are no implications in relation to property or accommodation.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required as there are no negative impacts identified as a result of this report. Through the introduction of the Carers Act and developments around this, the recommendations are expected to promote equality of opportunity for unpaid carers.

(h) Consultations

Chief Social Work Officer/Head of Service-Strategy and Commissioning, Head of Service- Adult and Children's Services, Chief Financial Officer, Commissioning and Performance Officer, Children's Wellbeing Manager, Equal Opportunities Officer, Pauline Knox; Senior Commissioning Officer, Sandi Downing; Project Manager, Quarriers Carer Support Service (Moray), Ivan Augustus; MIJB Carers Representative have been consulted on the content of this report and comments are incorporated.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 This report to the MIJB updates on the progress regarding implementation of the Carers Legislation, and focuses on the work to be undertaken to progress.

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Background Papers: with author
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