

Report

Report to:	Social Work Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	8 May 2019
Report by:	Director, Health and Social Care

Subject:	Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 - Update
----------	--

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide an update on the implementation of the duties of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016
- ◆ update on work to implement commissioning intentions associated with the carers strategic theme outlined in the Strategic Commissioning Plan (SCP) 2019-2022

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):

- (1) that the progress to date in respect of complying with the requirements of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 be noted; and
- (2) that the Committee notes the Direction recently approved by the Integration Joint Board (IJB) that South Lanarkshire Council procures services which provide equitable access to carer support services, information and advice, short breaks, consultation and engagement, training, practical support and assistance for adults and young carers.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 (CSA) aims to support carers' health and wellbeing and help make caring more sustainable. It puts in place measures to help people continue to care, for as long as they choose, in better health and to have a life alongside caring.
- 3.2. The Act widens the definition of a carer. There is no longer the requirement for a carer to provide 'regular and substantial care', instead within the context of the Act:
- a carer is defined as: 'an individual who provides or intends to provide care for another individual'
 - and a young carer is defined as: 'Under 18 years old or 18 years old and still at school'

- 3.3. The Act came into effect on 01 April 2018 and has introduced a number of new statutory requirements on local authorities and health boards as follows:
- Adult Carer Support Plans (ACSP) and Young Carer Statements
 - Provision of Support to Carers
 - Carer involvement
 - Local Carer Strategies
 - Information and Advice (including Short Breaks)
- 3.4. In addition to the requirements of the Act, it is important to reflect that within the Committee's recently approved SCP, carers remains one of 13 strategic priorities and this was strongly cited within the public consultation in developing the plan. Therefore, part of the work outlined in this paper outlines how the associated commissioning intentions for carers are being implemented. For information, the commissioning intentions for carers agreed within the SCP are:
- increase support to carer in maintaining their caring role through the implementation of the duties outlined in the CSA
 - strengthen the Third Sector support model for carers through reviewing how existing services are commissioned in relation to carers support services, information and advice, consultation and engagement, training and practical support

4. Current Position

- 4.1. A report was presented to the IJB in December 2018 updating on progress with the carers agenda. Following this, work has been ongoing in a range of areas identified above which include: SWiSplus IT developments to support the ACSP/Young Carer Statements; Wider Prioritisation/Eligibility including Carers Local Eligibility Criteria; Information and Advice including Short Breaks Statement; Partnership's Carers Strategy 2019-2022; carer involvement in a range of consultation and engagement exercise; and the appointment of a Planning and Development Officer who took up post on 03 January 2019.
- 4.2. ACSPs of a low/moderate level are currently undertaken by our commissioned service delivered by Lanarkshire Carers Centre. In Quarter 3 the centre delivered 125 ACSP for and with South Lanarkshire Carers. The centre has invested in personal outcome based approaches and has developed a toolkit to support this work. The "Carers Cake" toolkit assist create a plan to achieve carers outcomes using a mix of resources from the carers centre, universal services and what carers can proactively do for themselves.
- 4.3. ACSPs of a critical/substantial level are supported by the Self Directed Support (SDS) co-produced assessment process. IT developments are underway to capture the carer part of the co-produced assessment, as an activity in its own right. This will assist our data capture and requirement to complete carer census information for Scottish Government.
- 4.4. Young carers statements have also been developed to ensure a young carer has a childhood similar to their non-carer peers and help identify any issues impacting on their wellbeing. The additional investment agreed in December has assisted to increase the capacity of the service, and links with South Lanarkshire Carers Network (SLCN) and the Young Carers Forum have been established.

- 4.5. The guidance framework for Local Eligibility (Carers) Criteria is in place and has been widely consulted on. This now forms part of a suite of guidance in development regarding prioritisation/eligibility for access a range of services.
- 4.6. Information and Advice supports identified within the CSA include a range of activity that is currently provided through a number of services and supports across South Lanarkshire, many of them showcased at the carer conference on 29 March 2019. The Partnership has recently refreshed all its webpage information, and has also drafted a carer information booklet, that will be made widely available.
- 4.7. South Lanarkshire was part of a national group working on a Short Breaks Service Statement (SBSS) guidance notes for all local authorities. The SBSS is one of the duties placed on the Health and Social Care Partnership. The SBSS has been formally launched at the carers conference on 29 March 2019 ([Short Breaks Service Statement](#)).
- 4.8. South Lanarkshire has a strong history of having its own Carers Strategy prior to the introduction of the duty within the CSA 2016 ([South Lanarkshire Carers Strategy 2012 - 2017](#)). The CSA details what should be referenced within the Carers Strategy.
- 4.9. A consultation survey was undertaken as part to the Carers Strategy development along with individual meetings with carers and carer organisations as part of this work. The responses from all the engagement activity will guide the remodelling of carers supports and services. A draft version of the Carers Strategy 2019-2022 was presented at the carers conference on 29 March 2019 to allow for further consultation and final refinement.
- 4.10. The emerging themes for the Carers Strategy stem from the range of engagement activity which has assisted identify 4 key strategic outcomes:
- Outcome 1 - carers are identified, involved and valued
 - Outcome 2 - carers have choice and control, allowing them to balance their own life with their caring role.
 - Outcome 3 - carers can access the right supports and services at the right time.
 - Outcome 4 - carers have a positive experience of being a carer
- These outcomes will shape the actions and measures flowing from our Carers' Strategy.
- 4.11. Lanarkshire Carers Centre and SLCN provide a range of supports to carers. However, it is recognised that there is some duplication of effort and work across both organisations. Since the last Committee, a meeting with both providers supported by planning and procurement staff was held to discuss this in more detail. Both organisations understand that the Partnership needs to ensure that services are appropriate to the needs of carers. Lanarkshire Carers Centre (LCC) had advised at this meeting that they had been awarded a tender with North Lanarkshire Health and Care Partnership.
- 4.12. Both providers have been made aware that South Lanarkshire Health and Care Partnership are scoping a tender exercise to the value of the existing financial package. The Health and Care Partnership provided funding to LCC in 2018 to the value of £333,482 and SLCN to the value of £189,784, a total of £523,266. This funding level currently exceeds [European Procurement Thresholds](#) currently set at £118,133.

- 4.13. The current funding to the in house social work support to young carers is £127,890 and there is in kind support to young carers through Education Resource Universal Connections (young carer groups across localities).
- 4.14. A carers' services and supports commissioning group has been established to develop a timeline, service specification and tender process for the future of carer supports and services in South Lanarkshire.
- 4.15. Another duty of the Act relates to carer involvement in hospital discharge. The HSCP has retained one of the original carer coordinators at the Hairmyres Hospital site however we need to establish a comprehensive response across all sites where South Lanarkshire carers may find themselves, this includes Monklands and Wishaw, work is currently underway to link with appropriate staff in order to deliver on this duty.

5. Summary and Next Steps

- 5.1. Developing services and supports for carers is a significant priority and area of activity for the Committee. Therefore, a number of important next steps are outlined below which reflects this.
- 5.2. Continue to build on the implementation of the statutory functions outlined in the CSA.
- 5.3. Develop a service specification to facilitate a procurement exercise for the delivery of Carer Support Services, information and advice, short breaks, consultation and engagement, training, practical support and assistance for adult and young carers. (CSA requirements). This action will respond directly to the recently approved IJB Direction to procure equitable services for carers.
- 5.4. Develop online information resources for carers and partner agencies.
- 5.5. Formally publish, Local Eligibility Criteria, Short Breaks Service Statement, Carers Strategy 2019/2020.
- 5.6. Contribute to the development of an information platform in relation to SDS and carers.
- 5.7. Provide update reports to the Committee and Performance and Audit Sub Committee of the IJB on progress with the implementation of commissioning intentions associated with the strategic priority of carers.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report. The appointment of a Planning and Development officer identified at 26 June Committee is now in place as are the additional carer support workers based within Lanarkshire Carers Centre.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. There are no financial implications associated with this report, it is worth noting however the baseline potential contract value for any new carers supports and services tender in South Lanarkshire is estimated at 4.12./4.13. above.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. As part of a procurement sourcing methodology exercise, a risk assessment will be undertaken to ensure minimal impact on the delivery of current carers' services and supports.
- 8.2. Ensuring effective and sufficient support for carers in their caring role is a key priority for the Committee and is in line with outcome 6 of the national health and wellbeing objectives.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. An equality impact assessment has been undertaken to ensure there are no negative impacts on our protected characteristic groups.
- 9.2. A range of consultation and engagement activity has been undertaken with the development of strategies and practice guidance in support of carers.

Val de Souza

Director, Health and Social Care

18 April 2019

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Protect vulnerable children, young people and adults
- ◆ Deliver better health and social care outcomes for all
- ◆ Improve later life

Previous References

- ◆ SW Committee Carers Act Update report 25 April 2018

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Copies of Local Eligibility Criteria, Short Breaks Service Statement, Information booklet, Carers Strategy 2019 2022 available on request.

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Bernie J Perrie, Planning and Performance Manager

Ext: 3749 (Phone: 01698 453749)

Email: bernie.perrie@southlanarkshire.gov.uk