

# Report

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Report to:	<b>Social Work Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>20 September 2006</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Social Work Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Carers Strategy 2006/09</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Inform members of the Social Work Committee of the review and update of South Lanarkshire's Carers Strategy in partnership with carers organisations, South Lanarkshire Council, NHS Lanarkshire and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.
- ◆ Highlight the main issues arising from the Carers Strategy.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the implementation of the Carers Strategy is agreed.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. In response to the production of the first Carers Strategy in 1998, a carers strategy group was established with the purpose of considering carers issues and overseeing the development of the Scottish Executive Carer development monies allocation. This group have reviewed the Carers Strategy with the involvement of Carers in the process, to reflect progress made and current legislation and national policy.
- 3.2. Recently the Carers Strategy Group agreed to update the Carers Strategy in response to the progress made in South Lanarkshire and to reflect the current legislation and national policy. A multi-agency working group including Social Work Resources, Health, Carers and Carer organisations was established to develop the revised Carers Strategy.
- 3.3. The fundamental principles underlying current legislation and national policy for Carers is that local authorities, health and other support agencies must recognise and treat Carers as key partners in the provision of care. Carers should be involved in the planning and development of services and be appropriately resourced in order to continue in their caring role.
- 3.4. Care 21 commissioned a study on the future of unpaid care in Scotland. Twenty two recommendations were made for the Scottish Executive, local authorities and health boards to consider. The Scottish Executive recently announced four priority areas in the first instance, these are:
- ◆ Training opportunities for carers

- ◆ Breaks from caring
- ◆ Young Carers
- ◆ Carers health.

3.5. Social Work Resources was one of three pilot inspections undertaken by the Social Work Inspection Agency. Overall the Resource was assessed as making good progress and as a result of the inspection a number of recommendations were identified including the need to “continue and extend efforts designed to increase the take up of carer assessments”. An action plan has been developed and work is progressing in this specific area that is linked closely with actions contained within the Carers Strategy.

#### **4. Current Position**

4.1. The revised Carers Strategy will provide a clear framework for South Lanarkshire Council Resources and partners for the ongoing improvement and development of carers issues and support over the next three years. The strategy is linked to the Council’s themes outlined in FourCast, the Community Plan and national policy and legislation relevant to all partners. It is the intention of partners to monitor the implementation of the strategy and to produce a summary annual review, in line with public performance reporting requirements.

4.2. The broad issues from the Carers Strategy at present are:

- ◆ Involving Carers
- ◆ Information, communication and training
- ◆ Practical support
- ◆ Breaks from caring
- ◆ Carers assessment
- ◆ Carers health
- ◆ Carers and employment
- ◆ Young carers

#### **5. Employee Implications**

5.1. There are no employee implications arising from this report.

#### **6. Financial Implications**

6.1. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

#### **7. Other Implications**

7.1. The revised Carers Strategy is a joint document with NHS Lanarkshire; NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde; carers; The South Lanarkshire Carers Network and The Princess Royal Carers Trust.

#### **8. Consultation**

8.1. Carers and carers organisations were part of the working group developing the strategy. A wider consultation took place from 1 June to 26 July 2006 and was well received by stakeholders.

**Harry Stevenson**  
**Executive Director (Social Work Resources)**

26 July 2006

**Link(s) to Council Objectives**

- Creating Successful Communities
- Supporting Communities
- Living in the Community

**Previous References**

- Social Work Resources Carers Strategy (1998)

**List of Background Papers**

- Draft Carers Strategy for South Lanarkshire 2006/09
- Carers Strategy For South Lanarkshire 2006-2009

**Contact for Further Information**

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

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Ref: STS0614/Version8