

# Report

Report to:	<b>Social Work Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>25 April 2018</b>
Report by:	<b>Director, Health and Social Care</b>

Subject:	<b>Carers Act Update</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise of the progress on the Implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016
- ◆ advise of the contributory role of the voluntary sector in the Implementation of the Act

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the progress on the implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 be noted;
- (2) that the role of the voluntary sector with the implementation of the Act be noted; and
- (3) to note that future updates on the implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 would be provided.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. The NHS and Community Care Act 1990 is widely cited as the first piece of UK legislation to establish a formal requirement for user involvement in service planning. The Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995 further linked carers to involvement and planning of services. Services evolved in South Lanarkshire as a result of this legislation. The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 now establishes the rights of carers on a more formal basis by placing specific duties on local authorities and health boards.
- 3.2. The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016, which came into force on 1 April 2018, represents a bold vision through extending and enhancing the rights of carers.
- 3.3. Implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 sits within a wider context of the integration of Health and Social Care, building a fairer Scotland and a strong, sustainable economy, tackling inequalities and delivering public services with communities.
- 3.4. The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 identifies a number of new requirements and actions to support carers:-
  - ◆ a new adult carer support plan
  - ◆ a new young carer statement
  - ◆ duty to support carers including by means of a local eligibility criteria
  - ◆ duty to prepare a local carer strategy
  - ◆ duty to provide an information and advice service and publish a short breaks services statement

- ◆ duty to involve carers in the discharge from hospital of the people they care for

3.5. A Carers Act Programme Board was established in September 2017 and has been shaping the South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership's response to the implementation of the Carers Act. The Programme Board has been using the Carers Act Readiness Toolkit to track the progress of its response and implementation of the range of duties within the Act this can be assessed below.



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- 3.6. Final Guidance on the implementation of the Act was received from the Scottish Government in March 2018.
- 3.7. Carers are recognised as equal partners in the delivery of support and care. The Council has benefited from carers who care for the most vulnerable people living in our communities, and the organisations that support them.
- 3.8. South Lanarkshire has provided support funding to a range of organisations supporting carers but the two main carer organisations funded primarily focus on the "provision of support services to carers" and "the voice of carers".
- 3.9. [Lanarkshire Carers Centre](#) (LCC) is a carer led organisation and has operated since 1995. It is a registered charity and is recognised as the key provider of carer support services. LCC receives pan Lanarkshire Service funding by both North and South Lanarkshire Partnerships, with other funding from a previously managed NHS Lanarkshire Carers Information Strategy (CIS). CIS funding transferred to the respective Health and Care Partnerships in April 2017.
- 3.10. [South Lanarkshire Carers Network](#) (SLCN) is a Carer led organisation which was established in 1998 to influence and involve carers in the planning and provision of services that affect them. The role of the Network is to: identify unpaid carers, develop and maintain the Network for unpaid carers, Consult and engage with carers, identify gaps in the provision of services.
- 3.11. The Resource is working closely with both organisations in our readiness for the implementation of the Act, and to ensure we have the right support in the right place at the right time for all carers across South Lanarkshire.
- 3.12. Commissioning arrangements with current carer organisations require to be reviewed in relation to specific duties of the Act. Our main Carer Centre, is a pan Lanarkshire Service and North Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership has indicated they will be tendering their Carer Support Services. An options appraisal of future service models of Carer Support in south will be undertaken. This will include the current CIS funded hospital and community carer support services.
- 3.13. The Scottish Government has also requested detailed information in the form of "Carers census" data. Social Work Resources and Lanarkshire Carers Centre are currently working to support this activity.

- 3.14. Stakeholder awareness raising around the Act will be undertaken in a range of ways, with some funding targeted to the voluntary sector to drive some of this work forward. In terms of training and awareness for our own staff, a Learn on Line, EPIC (Equal Partners in Care) carer awareness training tool will go live shortly. A communication group will also be established to ensure all publicity material from a range of different organisations is consistent across all agencies.

#### **4. Employee Implications**

- 4.1. This report identifies further responsibilities for employees of both the Resource and the voluntary sector, in driving the work forward with the additional planning, data, and operational demands of the implementation of the Act.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1. The financial impact of the Act and funding associated is still to be identified. A range of funding streams is currently being mapped to ensure the duties of the Act are delivered.
- 5.2. The transfer of CIS funding to respective partnerships, its management, allocation, and future utilisation requires to be considered.

#### **6. Other Implications**

- 6.1. The potential demands for Adult Carer Support Plans/Young Carers Statements and the Self Directed Support budgets that could development remains a concern as organisations such as the Coalition of Carers raise awareness/expectation to Carers rights under the Act.
- 6.2. Voluntary Sector organisation have differing roles and remits, there is a risk that as the Act defines specific duties, such as information and advice, rather than complement, they compete. Social Work Resources is working with Carer organisations and Vaslan to ensure the resources carers require are in place and access clear.
- 6.3. The tender of Carers Services in North Lanarkshire will have implications for the Partnership. South Lanarkshire will monitor the impact on Lanarkshire Carers Centre once the impact is known.

#### **7. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 7.1. An equality impact assessment will be required as the Act will introduce new policy.
- 7.2. Carers will be consulted, and the carer organisations who support them included in any consultation. Carer organisation representatives are included in the Carers Act Programme Board and its sub groups.

**Val de Souza**  
**Director, Health and Social Care**

9 March 2018

**Link(s) to Council Values/Objectives**

- ◆ protect vulnerable children, young people and adults
- ◆ improving later life
- ◆ deliver better health and social care outcomes for all
- ◆ work with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities

**Previous References**

- ◆ Report to IJB – Carers Strategy Issues Paper

**List of Background Papers**

- ◆ Carers Act – Readiness Toolkit.

**Contact for Further Information**

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

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