

## AGENDA ITEM

17



**Title/Subject:** Carers Act: Implementation Update  
**Meeting:** Integration Joint Board  
**Date:** 7 December 2018  
**Submitted By:** Head of Social Work Adult Services  
**Action:** For Decision

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Integration Joint Board has received regular progress reports on the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 (the 2016 Act) advising that:
- Commencement of the Act was 1 April 2018
  - A National LA/NHS/Partnership Leads Group is in place to oversee direct planning, guidance and implementation of the Act
  - A local Carers Act Implementation Group is in place to co-ordinate local implementation in Falkirk.
- 1.2 This report advises on progress to date at a national and local level and identifies key issues for decision by the Integration Joint Board.

## 2. RECOMMENDATION

The Integration Joint Board is asked to:

- 2.1 note the progress made to date and the ongoing priority work streams
- 2.2 note the submission of the Falkirk Short Break Services Statement for approval as a separate agenda item
- 2.3 approve the programme described in Section 4.3 - 4.5 for the development of the Adult and Young Carers Strategy and associated actions.

## 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. The main direction of the 2016 Act is consistent with Falkirk HSCP Integrated Strategic Plan 2016-2019 and revised Strategic Plan due for publication in 2019.
- 3.2. The approach developed in Falkirk recognises the need to support carers in a range of innovative ways including short breaks, respite and needs identified by carers such as information on new benefits etc. This also takes account of the projected increase in people with additional support needs, people with complex needs and consequently increasing demand for carer support.

## **4. CARERS ACT IMPLEMENTATION - UPDATE**

### **4.1. Summary**

The IJB has previously received updates on the publication of a Carers Needs Assessment, production of Eligibility Criteria and associated assessment processes including the use of Adult Carer Support Plans and Young Carer Statements. A report was also given on the investment of resources to deliver these processes.

#### **4.1.1. Further areas implemented since the last report include the following:**

- By the end of October 2018, 229 adult carer referrals had been made to the Carers Centre. These resulted in 155 Adult Carer Support Plans (ACSP) being produced, with 49 of these being referred to Social Work for funded support.
- The reasons for some carers (74) not wishing to produce an ACSP are not recorded against each individual since they haven't given permission for their data to be stored. In general the reasons included:
  - personal preference,
  - request for specific support only e.g. benefits advice
  - some people decided they did not wish to continue, after beginning the process, because they changed their minds or their issues had already been resolved.
- There have been 39 young carer referrals since 1 April 2018 and the Carers Centre is in the process of offering them the Young Carers Statement, and piloting the version of the Young Carers Statement that was designed by young carers.
- Eighteen Carers Act briefing sessions have been delivered jointly by Social Work Services and the Carers Centre to staff from NHS, Falkirk HSCP, Falkirk Council and the Third sector over the last few months. In total 134 people attended the sessions. Further sessions will be scheduled if and when required.
- Development of processes and documentation for the national Carers Census Data Specification required by Scottish Government. Data will be collected from NHS, Local Authorities and Carers Centres across the country.
- Established interim arrangements for recording of carer records and linking to the Support Plans and Statements to ensure all data is held securely and is accessible for review and data reporting purposes.
- Services have been maintained in 2018/19 through Third Sector organisations and the Falkirk Carers Centre which delivers a local 'information and advice' service and other support on income maximisation, training, advocacy, health

and wellbeing support, short breaks access, bereavement support, emergency and future planning.

- A successful application was also made to the Scottish Government to support compliance with the statutory duty to involve carers in hospital discharge (Section 28). A member of staff will be recruited to temporary post within NHS to take this forward during 2018/19. The funding is for 1 year.

#### **4.2. Development of the Adult and Young Carers Strategy and Associated Actions**

The IJB is expected to produce a Carers Strategy by April 2019, aligned with the next version of the Strategic Plan, which is due to be published at the same time.

- 4.2.1. The development process to produce the Falkirk Carers Strategy has been progressing with a workshop held in October, including unpaid carers, to develop a vision and aims for the strategy. The workshop held in November as, part of the development process for the Strategic Plan, identified a number of priorities for inclusion into the Carers Strategy. The outputs from these sessions will be incorporated into the next draft which will be considered by the Carers Act Implementation Group.
- 4.2.2. It is proposed to hold a consultation period starting in January 2019, with carers sessions scheduled for the 16 and 19 January 2019. The aim is to take the final draft Carers Strategy to the Strategic Planning Group meeting in March, prior to submission to the IJB in early April 2019 for approval.

#### **4.3. Resources and Commissioning Review**

From 2018/19 funding for carer services has been delivered through core funding from Falkirk Council and NHS Forth Valley and resources identified previously in the Integrated Care Fund and Carers Information Strategy Fund, which have been consolidated into the resources allocated to Local Authorities by the Scottish Government.

- 4.3.1. The 2018/19 budget settlement for local authorities included new funding of £66m nationally, of which £19m was allocated for Carers. This translates to c£0.544m for Falkirk. The allocation to Falkirk includes an element for the NHS and Children's Services as well as Adult Social Care.
- 4.3.2. There will be a further four years of additional funding to be made available from April 2019 in line with the Financial Memorandum associated with the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016. Once the figure for available resources is confirmed this will be aligned to delivering the priorities identified in the Carers Strategy.
- 4.3.3. Effective monitoring of the impact of the Act on increased demand for Adult Carers Support Plans and Young Carers Statements and subsequently the cost of responding to identified eligible need over the lifetime of the Carers strategy will be crucial. Onward investment will be directed by this increase in demand but also by the outcome from the Carers Services Strategic Commissioning Review.

- 4.3.4. This combined investment has provided a strong platform from which the HSCP can effectively respond to the new duties and responsibilities under the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1. Progress towards the successful implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 is underway, however it is recognised that there is a significant amount of work is still required to ensure full compliance. This includes service development, data collection and involvement of carers in the design, development and delivery of support that meets their needs. Effective partnership working is a key element of this and all partners are engaging well towards achieving the aims of the 2016 Act.

### **Resource Implications**

These are outlined in Section 4 para 4.6 to 4.10

### **Impact on IJB Outcomes and Priorities**

Carers have been identified as one of the priorities within the Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan 2016-2019 and this is aligned to the National Health and well-being outcome relating to carers.

### **Legal & Risk Implications**

This process should allow the IJB to discharge its duties as delegated by Falkirk Council and NHS Forth Valley.

### **Consultation**

The programme of consultation carried out to date in the preparation for the Act's implementation has been extensive. This will be built upon in the coming months through engagement with staff across the HSCP and with staff in Children's Services in terms of briefings around the implications of the Act. This will involve the third and independent sectors, carers and the Carers Centre as we review and learn from the experience of implementation of the Act.

### **Equalities Assessment**

An EPIA is not required for this updated report.

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