

FALKIRK COUNCIL

SUBJECT: FORTH VALLEY INTEGRATED CARERS STRATEGY

MEETING: EXECUTIVE

DATE: 18 JUNE 2013

AUTHOR: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the development of the Forth Valley Integrated Carers Strategy (FVICS) and to seek formal approval for implementation. This has been led by NHS Forth Valley on behalf of the partnership, including Falkirk Council.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A report was presented to the Housing and Social Care Committee on 28 August 2012 noting the background to the development of the draft FVICS, inviting comments and requesting endorsement of the priorities contained in the draft strategy for implementation.
- 2.2 Since the publication of the Caring Together – The Carers Strategy for Scotland 2010-2015 and Getting it Right for Young Carers – The Young Carers Strategy for Scotland 2010-2015, there continues to be a range of national initiatives to support carers and raise awareness of their needs. During this time work has also taken place across Forth Valley to develop a Forth Valley Integrated Carers strategy. This acknowledges that the role of carers is fundamentally important in supporting people to continue to live in their own homes and communities. The development of the Forth Valley Integrated Carers Strategy (FVICS) will ensure the continued delivery of high quality services that will directly and indirectly support carer's to continue to provide care where this is their choice. The strategy will also have an important role in ensuring equitable service delivery across the Forth Valley area, whilst recognising there will be a requirement to respond to particular local priorities and needs, and will support the delivery of a number of local policy initiatives, including the SOA, Reshaping Care for Older People and the integration of health and social care.
- 2.3 There has been a long established Forth Valley Carers Information Strategy Implementation Group, which has representation from a range of partners. This group has a key role in the strategic planning arrangements that ensure the profile of carers is raised and that services are developed and delivered to meet their needs. This will be augmented by the establishment of a Falkirk strategic planning group to oversee the implementation of the priorities and actions contained within the FVICS at a local level.

3. FORTH VALLEY INTEGRATED CARERS STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Forth Valley Carers Strategy has been developed in partnership with a number of organisations including NHS Forth Valley, Falkirk, Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire and Stirling Carers Centres, Job Centre Plus and the DWP. The strategy has taken into account the National Carers Strategies, the

significant amount of available national research on carers' needs and issues and the shared knowledge and experiences of our local carers and employees working with carers. The strategy is attached in the volume of appendices for approval.

- 3.2. The draft strategy was launched for consultation during National Carers week, with the consultation period from 18 June to 31 August 2012. During this period consultation events were organised. The stakeholder engagement is attached in the volume of appendices for noting.

- 3.3. For the purposes of the strategy, the following definition for carers has been agreed:

'A carer is a person, of any age, who looks after family, partners or friends in need of help, because they are ill, frail or have a disability and need support to live independently. This care is unpaid however the carer may be in receipt of carers allowance but this is not considered to be payment.'

- 3.4. The Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2007-08 estimated 42,669 carers are resident in the Forth Valley area, with approximately 21,929 in the Falkirk Council area.

- 3.5. It is acknowledged that issues for carers can be different depending on a number of factors, however there is evidence of key common issues. In working with carers, they have identified supports that they see as being important in enabling them to continue in their role for example breaks, training and education, access to information, services for the person being cared for and recognition and to be treated as equal partners in care giving.

- 3.6. In addition, a range of issues were identified through work with young carers including transition (from primary to secondary school, leaving school, and moving from services aimed at young person to adult services); social isolation; educational attainment; emotional difficulties. Falkirk Children's Commission have, through the Integrated Children's Services Plan (2010-2015) identified young carers as a vulnerable group. As such, an audit to identify young carers and their needs has been undertaken. This audit has identified at least 237 young carers in the Falkirk Council area.

- 3.7. Importantly, the strategy recognises there has been considerable activity to support carers taking place in Forth Valley. Some of these examples include:-

- A programme of training for carers which helps carers deal more effectively with their caring role
- Continued provision of a range of short breaks and respite services to carers
- Information and support provided on a range of topics
- Carers Health Liaison Worker at the hospital to ensure the needs of carers are met
- GP practices have been provided with a self-referral form for carers which has been developed as part of the resources for GP practices. This provides the opportunity to request information about Carers Assessments to ensure carers receive any support they might be entitled to.
- Carer's representation on a number of strategic planning and operational delivery groups.

- 3.8. The Forth Valley Integrated Carers Strategy sets out the overarching priorities for carers and will be taken forward through local implementation plans for each Council area, at the same time retaining a Forth Valley overview to ensure consistency and equity in

approaches and services. The strategy recognises that partners should focus on the carer's journey through the whole system and the transitions involved. The priorities that have been proposed for continuation and/or implementation have been grouped into the following main themes:

- Support for carers, for example develop the provision of greater support for carers at the time of discharge and transition.
- Training, education and information, for example continue to disseminate information resources and training for carers, young carers and professionals.
- Further development a range of creative and sustainable short breaks and respite for carers.
- Raising awareness, for example continue to promote the uptake of carer's assessments and ensure the continued involvement of carers that ensures carers and their needs are represented at a strategic and service planning level.

4. EQUALITY IMPACT AND POVERTY ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS

- 4.1. The strategy acknowledges that for some carer groups they will experience greater challenges in relation to equalities and poverty and importantly sets out how the partners will address these issues. In addition to completing a joint Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment with the development of the Falkirk local implementation plan, the partners will continue to review and monitor the impact of caring by using national and local research over the period of the plan, taking remedial action where required.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. The strategy will be implemented within existing resources.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1. Members of the Executive are asked to:

1. **Note the development of the Forth Valley Integrated Carers Strategy and the consultation which has taken place on the contents.**
2. **Approve the strategy as attached in the volume of appendices.**
3. **Ask the Director of Social Work Services to ensure that an implementation plan is developed and that the Social Work Service Plan reflects the commitments outlined in this strategy.**

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Director of Social Work Services

Date: 6 June 2013

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS