

## **Integration Joint Board**

**Date of Meeting: 27 March 2024**

**Title of Report: Carers Strategy**

**Presented by: Kirsty Mackenzie, Carers Act Implementation Officer; Mags Todd, Young Carer officer; Linda Currie, Associate Director Allied Health Professionals.**

**The Integration Joint Board is asked to:**

- Endorse the 2024-2027 HSCP Carers Strategy

### **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 requires that Local Authorities and relevant Health Boards have a local Carer Strategy.

The Strategy has been drafted following the guidance within the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 statutory guidance.

There have been 9 draft versions of the strategy with consultation and feedback from Carers, Carer Partners, Education, and HSCP.

Our commitments cover 4 identified outcomes, with 31 areas for action.

1. All Carers are identified at the earliest opportunity and offered support to assist them in their caring role.
2. Young Carers are supported with their caring roles and enabled to be children and young people first.
3. Carers will have access to, advice, information and support services to improve their overall health and wellbeing and enjoy a life alongside their caring roles
4. Carers have access to information and advice about their rights and entitlements to ensure they are free from disadvantage or discrimination in relation to their caring role

We aim to create 4 Care Focus groups for; Parent Carers, Young Carers, Carers supporting with Alcohol or A

## **5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

Robust support to carers is a fundamental aspect of our strategic vision and priorities. We also know that without unpaid carers we would be unable to meet the demand with statutory services. Supporting carers is also therefore critical in reducing demand on care at home services and achieving financial sustainability.

## **6. GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **6.1 Financial Impact**

The partnership currently funds approximately £1,138,914 to the 4 Carers Centres and 1 youth development service across Argyll and Bute. We have renewed and updated contracts in place with specification aligning to our statutory duties with the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 along with robust and managed Procurement and Commissioning processes.

### **6.2 Staff Governance**

The majority of Carers services are supported by our existing Carers centres and third sector with a focus on prevention and innovative. Within these organisations there are over 80 support workers providing both Adult and Young Carer support. The staff providing these services are third sector and those contracts are managed by our procurement and commissioning team with close collaborative working across the partnership.

### **6.3 Clinical Governance**

Through HSCP governance structures as appropriate.

## **7. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

An impact assessment will be carried out around any changes to current services or future planning of services. During planning the intention is to increase engagement with remote and rural carers and work towards identifying unknown carers. Some of this work is already underway by outreach workers within the centres.

## **8. RISK ASSESSMENT**

we hope to mitigate that with enhanced work identified in the implementation plan.

Other associated risks around funding and process of supporting carers will be overseen within our Carers Act Social Work group which is in early stages of being established.

## **9. PUBLIC & USER INVOLVEMENT & ENGAGEMENT**

Drafts of the Carers Strategy have been produced in conjunction with the multi-agency Carers Partnership and Carers across A&B. The strategy has been out

to consultation with a forms questionnaire, written questionnaires, and focus groups during the period of consultation and has been widely circulated across all sectors.

Feedback was excellent with 198 consultation questionnaires returned.