



Dumfries and Galloway
Integration Joint Board

14th July 2016

This Report relates to
Item 8 on the Agenda

Update on Dumfries & Galloway Carers Strategy

(Paper presented by Linda Owen)

For Noting

Approved for Submission by	Vicky Freeman Head of Strategic Planning
Author	Linda Owen Strategic Planning & Commissioning Manager,
List of Background Papers:	
Appendices	Appendix 1 Dumfries and Galloway Carers Strategy (2012-17)

SECTION 1: REPORT CONTENT

Title/Subject: Update on Dumfries & Galloway Carers Strategy
Meeting: Integration Joint Board
Date: 14th July 2016
Submitted By: Linda Owen, Strategic Planning & Commissioning Manager
Action: For Noting

1. Introduction

1.1 With the introduction of a new Carers Act in March 2016, and Carers identified as one of the main priorities within the new Dumfries and Galloway Health and Social Care Strategic Plan (2016-19), a new and sustained focus is being placed on Carers both nationally and locally.

2. Executive Summary

2.2 The purpose of this paper is to sight members on the current position with regard to:

- The implementation of the Dumfries and Galloway Carers Strategy (2012-17)
- The requirements of the new Carers (Scotland) Act 2016
- Outline plans for the development of a new Carers Strategy for Dumfries and Galloway (2017- 20)

3. Recommendations

3.1 The Integration Joint Board is asked to note the current position in relation to:

- The implementation of the current Dumfries and Galloway Carers Strategy (2012-17)
- The key points of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016
- Plans to develop a new Carers Strategy for Dumfries and Galloway (2017-20)

4. Background

4.1 A Carer is defined by the Scottish Government as *“a person of any age who provides unpaid help and support to a relative, friend or neighbour who cannot manage to live independently without the Carer’s help due to frailty, illness, disability or addiction”*.

4.2 Carers are recognised at a national level as a vital element in the provision of health and social care. One of the 9 National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes relates specifically to Carers;

“People who provide unpaid care are supported to look after their own health and well being, including to reduce any negative impact of their caring role on their own health and well being”.

- 4.3** In Dumfries & Galloway, Carers make up 9% of the population and of this group, 29% provide more than 50 hours of support a week. They are a vital component of the health and social care system. Unpaid Carers are the largest group of care providers in Scotland, providing more care than the NHS and Councils combined, avoiding costs of £10bn per annum (University of Leeds 2011).
- 4.4** Work to achieve the national outcomes, implement the new Carers Act and ensure that Carers are well supported in Dumfries and Galloway is underway. A range of policies and strategies that underpin this work including:
- Dumfries and Galloway Carers Strategy (2012-17)
 - Carers (Scotland) Act 2016
 - Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board and Social Care Strategic Plan (2016-19)

5. Main Body Of The Report

- 5.1** Dumfries and Galloway Carers Strategy (2012-17)
- 5.2** In 2011, the Dumfries and Galloway Carers Strategy (2012-17) (attached at **Appendix 1**), was developed between NHS Dumfries and Galloway and Dumfries and Galloway Council. The Strategy was coproduced with local Carers and Carer Organisations.
- 5.3** The Carers Strategy identified 12 priority areas of need and actions to address these. To date, the activity in the strategy has been overseen by the Dumfries and Galloway Carers Strategy Group and supported by the Carers Reference Group and Carers Interest Network. Work to date includes:
- Increased awareness raising of services available for new and existing Carers across Dumfries and Galloway
 - Emergency Card – over 500 have been distributed to Carers
 - Young Carers Cards – over 85 have been distributed to Young Carers
 - Achievement of Council and NHS Carer Positive Award
 - Testing and implementing Adult Carer Support Plans
 - Testing and implementing Young Carer Support Statements
 - Launch of the new Epic E-learning module for all staff
 - Care Aware training provided to over 1500 staff
 - Development of a new Young Adult Carers Project for Carers aged 16-29 years.
 - Carers consulted on the future development of services.

5.4 All of the actions identified in the Strategy are anticipated to be completed by March 2017.

5.5 Carers (Scotland) Act 2016

5.6 The Scottish Parliament approved the Carers (Scotland) Bill on the 4th February 2016 and the Bill gained royal ascent on the 9th March 2016. This Act places new duties in relation to Carers on local authorities and health boards. These include:

- Supporting Carers to develop Adult Carer Support Plans (replacing Carers assessments) or Young Carers Statements
- Setting local eligibility criteria to determine which Carers are eligible for support (and support must be given to meet their eligible needs)
- Making information available about a wide range of short breaks
- Involving Carers in the planning and development of Carers' services and in the planning of care services for the person they care for
- Involving Carers in hospital discharge planning for the person they care for
- Maintaining an 'information and advice service' for Carers that provides information and advice about Carers' rights, income maximisation, education and training, advocacy for Carers, health and wellbeing, bereavement support, and emergency planning and future care planning
- Preparing a new local Carers' Strategy

5.7 There has been a public commitment by the Scottish Government that the Act will commence in 2017/18. No date for formal commencement has been announced, however it is anticipated that at least 6 months notice will be given to allow sufficient time to develop actions such as the local eligibility criteria. Guidance in relation to the Act is also anticipated in due course.

5.8 Aspects of the Act that are already in place:

- Adult Carers Support Plans
- Young Carers Support Statements
- Emergency Cards
- Information and Advice Services
- Short Breaks
- Involvement of Carers in planning services

5.9 Aspects of the Act that are in the process of being put in place:

- Supporting Carers to be involved in hospital discharge
- Development of new Carers Strategy

5.10 Aspects of the Act where work is yet to commence:

- Development of a local eligibility criteria

5.11 New Dumfries and Galloway Carers Strategy

As noted above, the current Dumfries & Galloway Carers strategy will end in 2017; the Act requires that local authorities and relevant health boards prepare a local Carers Strategy. It is proposed that work commences on the development of a new Dumfries & Galloway Carer Strategy covering the period from 2017 – 2020 to align with the new 3 yearly strategic commissioning cycle of the Integration Joint Board (IJB).

The new Dumfries & Galloway Carer strategy will align with the outcomes and commitments contained within the Dumfries & Galloway Health and Social Care Strategic Plan and other relevant Local Authority and NHS plans and strategies and will include Carers of all ages.

6. Conclusions

6.1 Based on the information provided above the Integration Joint Board is asked to note the position in relation to:

- The implementation of the current Dumfries and Galloway Carers Strategy (2012-17)
- The key points of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016
- A plan to develop a new Carers Strategy for Dumfries and Galloway 2017-20

SECTION 2: COMPLIANCE WITH GOVERNANCE STANDARDS

7. Resource Implications

The Scottish Government have outlined a financial memorandum in relation to the Carers Scotland Act of £5m for Scotland, with further details to follow in due course.

8. Impact on the Integration Joint Board, Priorities and Policy

8.1 As outlined in Section 1, Carers are a key priority for the Health and Social Care Strategic Plan and are also subject to a national outcome measure.

9. Legal and Risk Implications

9.1 Until guidance and further details of the financial memorandum are provided by the Scottish Government, it is difficult to determine the level of risk for the Integration Joint Board.

10. Consultation

10.1 The contents of this Paper have been discussed with:

- Dumfries and Galloway Carers Strategy Group on 19th April 2016

11. Community Engagement

11.1 Regular meetings are held with the Carers Reference Group, which is a group of unpaid Carers from all caring backgrounds. Specific engagement with Carers and Carers organisations will be undertaken in regards to the new Carers Strategy as it develops and will use the National Standards for Community Engagement.

12. Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment

12.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment will be undertaken as the new Carers Strategy for Dumfries and Galloway is developed.

13. Glossary

13.1 A Carer is defined by the Scottish Government as *“a person of any age who provides unpaid help and support to a relative, friend or neighbour who cannot manage to live independently without the Carers help due to frailty, illness, disability or addiction”*.

14. Exempt reports

14.1 None