

Meeting of:	Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	Tuesday, 08 March 2022
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Healthy Living and Social Care
Report Title:	Support for Carers in the Vale of Glamorgan
Purpose of Report:	To update Scrutiny Committee on support for unpaid carers
Report Owner:	Director of Social Services
Responsible Officer:	Head of Resource Management and Safeguarding
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Natasha James, Operational Manager, Safeguarding & Service Outcomes
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for Executive decision
Executive Summary:	<p>This Scrutiny Report provides an overview of the current services and support available to unpaid carers in the Vale of Glamorgan.</p>

Recommendations

1. That Scrutiny Committee considers the Annual Report on Support for Unpaid Carers and work undertaken to support carers in the Vale of Glamorgan.
2. That Scrutiny Committee is aware of the duties of the Council and its partners in regard to delivering services for Unpaid Carers within the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.
3. That Scrutiny Committee is aware of how the Council and its partners are meeting the Ministerial Priorities for Unpaid Carers and considers the regional work of the Unpaid Carers workstream.
4. That Scrutiny Report receives a Report on support for Unpaid Carers in the Vale of Glamorgan on an annual basis.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. To ensure that Members continue to exercise effective oversight of this important function undertaken by the Social Services Directorate.
2. That Scrutiny Members are aware of the duties outlined within legislation and the Ministerial Priorities set for carers.
3. That Scrutiny Members are aware of the regional work taking place for unpaid carers and facilitates support from the lead Member for Carers.
4. To ensure that Members continue to exercise effective oversight of this important function on an annual basis.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Social Services Directorate has produced an update to Scrutiny Members on an annual basis and the last Report was presented to Scrutiny on 9th March 2021.
- 1.2 Over the last year a number of key developments have been progressed, many of which are being delivered on a regional basis.
- 1.3 The Directorate continues to develop its response to the Social Services and Wellbeing Act and manage its statutory responsibilities and local needs within its resources, making the most of collaborative arrangements and Government funding streams where appropriate.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 The Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014 increased the rights of unpaid carers. This enabled local authorities to build on the services and support already in place.
- 2.2 The directorate's annual carers report for 2021/22 can be found at paragraph 5.1

- 2.3 Whilst the core funding for carers services was not increased in line with this growth in legislation to support unpaid carers, there has been Intermediate Care Fund (ICF) grant funding available to assist the transition and to develop new services for carers.
- 2.4 The Vale has maximised the impact of the available funding by putting in place arrangements to enhance carers' experience of the support available from Social Services and our partners by developing our existing arrangements and encouraging creativity and innovation.
- 2.5 Working with our partners on a Regional footprint, enables the sharing of knowledge, experience and resources which together will improve the essential support to those who provide a care giving role within our communities.
- 2.6 A key national development over the last year is the publication of a National 'Strategy for Unpaid Carers' and an associated Delivery Plan. This added a new Priority, to the three already established, of 'Supporting unpaid carers in education and the workplace'.
- 2.7 Locally, June 2021 saw the launch of our Regional identity card for young carers. A range of awareness raising activities were provided to support uptake of the card and the increased recognition of young carers the initiative was designed for.
- 2.8 Respite continues to be one of the main requests made by carers for support. We have been able to meet a wide range of needs by continuing to make funding available to third sector providers for general access and through the statutory assessment process. Practitioners are actively encouraged to be creative and innovative in finding solutions to meet the individual needs of unpaid carers.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1 The Regional Carers work stream is governed by the Sustainable Social Services Regional Steering Group (RSG). The Regional Carers Work Stream also provides highlight reporting on its progress to the Regional Partnership Board.
- 3.2 The Partnership is committed to ensuring that carers are recognised within our communities and that every step is taken to ensure that the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan region is an environment that supports the highest quality of life both for those providing and in receipt of care.
- 3.3 The work stream is a long-term joint commitment due to the need for longer term enhancement and development of services for carers. It will also be necessary to revisit our commissioning strategies and arrangements over time and to work with partners to the delivery of duties that are social services-specific under the Act.
- 3.4 The work stream has varied membership, drawing members from across the Integrated Health and Social Care Partnership as required.

- 3.5** The work stream has developed a project brief and plan, and will produce regular highlight reports for the Regional Steering Group to demonstrate achievements and identify risks.
- 3.6** By the agreed end of the life cycle of the group, the work stream will have:
- Ensured that social services and health process and practice across the region reflect the Act, the regulations, and the codes of practice, to support us to work within the law.
 - Ensured that staff at all levels have an appropriate understanding of the relevant parts of the legislation and are informed about their duties and responsibilities required to ensure their compliance with the Act.
 - Delivered on the project plan to ensure ongoing development and improvement of practice and service delivery across the region.
 - Delivered an Unpaid Carers Charter and delivery plan that will facilitate Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan in becoming a supportive and beneficial environment within which unpaid carers, and those who benefit from their work, can thrive.

4. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 4.1** There are no financial considerations resulting from this Report.

Employment

- 4.2** There are no employment implications to consider.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 4.3** The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 introduced new rights and entitlements for carers in Wales. It introduced a broader definition of a carer and placed stronger duties on local authorities to identify, assess and support carers.
- 4.4** Included in the Act is the continuation of the requirement on the NHS and Local Authorities in Wales to co-operate in relation to the delivery of preventative services, unless this is incompatible with their own duties. It also requires regional partnerships to ensure information, advice and assistance is offered across the region in a manner which is accessible and suits the needs of their population.
- 4.5** The United Nations Convention and the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) have relevance to a child as young carer. Article 3 includes the provision that in all actions concerning children by public or private social welfare institutions etc. the best interests of the child should be of primary consideration. Article 12 makes provision for ensuring that the child's views are expressed freely and given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child. There are other Articles which relate to the rights of the child.

5. Background Papers

5.1 Carers Annual Report 2021/22



Health and Social Care: Unpaid Carers Annual Report 2021

[Go to this Sway](#)