

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 15TH APRIL, 2021

REFERENCE FROM HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 9TH MARCH, 2021

“455 SUPPORT FOR CARERS IN THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN (DSS) –

The Operational Manager for Safeguarding and Service Outcomes presented the report to provide members with an update and further information on the Regional Work Stream for Unpaid Carers and the plans for a Regional Strategy to support said individuals. The report also provided an up to date overview of the current services and support available to Unpaid Carers in the Vale of Glamorgan.

By way of context, the Officer advised that the economic value of support provided by Unpaid Carers was estimated at £33m and was increasing year on year.

The report before Members reflected progress made prior to the national pandemic but, as expected, Covid-19 was having an immediate impact on services offered. Due to social restrictions, day centres offering respite care were currently closed putting significant strain on the Carers themselves and causing increased levels of social isolation.

Despite difficulties as a result of the national pandemic, efforts were still being made to engage with Unpaid Carers in the Vale of Glamorgan and the ‘Carer’s Gateway’ information and support service, launched in March 2020, had been a huge success for identifying carers and sign-posting individuals to real-time services. Newsletters also continued to be distributed during the pandemic and young carers were deemed key/vulnerable learners throughout the pandemic ensuring they continued to receive support via their school network.

Following the Officer’s presentation and subsequent questions from the Committee, the Operational Manager advised the following:

- Every school within the Vale of Glamorgan had a designated Carers Lead, which had been an invaluable role since the start of the pandemic, however a young person had the ability to decide who their link person/member of staff at the school may be which may not necessarily be the designated Carer Lead;
- The aforementioned estimated economic value of care provided by Unpaid Carers was a national reflection;
- The Council would continue to steer governmental discussions on finance and resources for carers via the Ministerial Advisory Group.

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the Annual Report on Support for Unpaid Carers and work undertaken to support Carers in the Vale of Glamorgan be noted.
- (2) T H A T the report be referred to the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee to note the work in respect of young carers.
- (3) T H A T the duties of the Council and its partners in regard to delivering services for Carers within the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 be noted.
- (4) T H A T how the Council and its partners were meeting the Ministerial Priorities for Carers and the development of the Regional Carers Strategy be noted.
- (5) T H A T a report on support for Unpaid Carers in the Vale of Glamorgan continues to be received 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) At the request of Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee to receive an update report on young carers on an annual basis.
- (3) To ensure Scrutiny Members are aware of the duties outlined within legislation and the Ministerial Priorities set for carers.
- (4) That Scrutiny Members have the opportunity to consider the development of a Regional Strategy for carers.
- (5) To ensure that Members continue to exercise effective oversight of this important function on an annual basis.”

Attached as Appendix – Report to Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee: 9th March, 2021

Meeting of:	Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	Tuesday, 09 March 2021
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 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 Nicola Hale, Team Manager, Performance and Information
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for Executive decision
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <p>This Scrutiny Report provides further information on the Regional Work Stream for Carers and the plans for a Regional Strategy for Carers.</p> <p>It also provides an up to date overview of the current services and support available to carers in the Vale of Glamorgan.</p>	

Recommendations

1. That Scrutiny Committee considers the Annual Report on Support for Carers and work undertaken to support carers in the Vale of Glamorgan.
2. That Scrutiny Committee refers the report to Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee to note the work in respect of young carers.
3. That Scrutiny Committee is aware of the duties of the Council and its partners in regard to delivering services for Carers within the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.
4. That Scrutiny Committee is aware of how the Council and its partners are meeting the Ministerial Priorities for Carers and considers the development of the Regional Carers Strategy.
5. That Scrutiny Committee receives a Report on support for 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. At the request of Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee to receive an update report on young carers on an annual basis.
3. To ensure Scrutiny Members are aware of the duties outlined within legislation and the Ministerial Priorities set for carers.
4. That Scrutiny Members have the opportunity to consider the development of a Regional Strategy for carers.
5. 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 previously produced an update to Scrutiny Members on an annual basis however due to the pandemic the last report was presented to Scrutiny on 18th June 2019.
- 1.2 During 2019/20 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 (Wales) Act 2014 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 (Wales) Act 2014 increased the rights of carers. This enabled local authorities to build on the services and support already in place.
- 2.2** Whilst the core funding for carers services was not increased in line with this growth in legislation to support carers, there has been Intermediate Care Fund (ICF) grant funding available to assist the transition and to develop new services for carers.
- 2.3** 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.
- 2.4** 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.
- 2.5** The Carers Annual Report (please see hyperlink in paragraph 5.1 below) illustrates the work undertaken to support carers in the Vale of Glamorgan.

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 a five year strategy for carers that will facilitate Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan in becoming a supportive and beneficial environment within which 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 2019/20

<https://sway.office.com/Czgr2GtWH4lm6WCq?ref=Link>