

Meeting of South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership	Performance and Audit Committee
Held on:	3rd October 2023
Agenda Item:	6
Title:	Progress Report on Young Carers Strategy 2021-2026
Summary:	
<p>The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Performance and Audit Committee on the progress of the actions contained within the Young Carers Strategy.</p>	
Author:	Claire Flanagan – Young Carers Strategy Lead Officer
Recommendations:	
<p>It is recommended that the Performance and Audit Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Note the updated action plan attached at Appendix 1 and ii. provide any comment in relation to this progress. 	
Route to meeting:	
<p>Third progress report submitted to the Performance and Audit Committee. The Young Carers Strategy was approved at the meeting of the Integration Joint Board on 12 February 2021.</p>	
Implications:	
Financial	<input type="checkbox"/>
HR	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Equalities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
ICT	<input type="checkbox"/>

PROGRESS REPORT ON YOUNG CARERS STRATEGY 2021-2026

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Performance and Audit Committee on the progress of the actions contained within the Young Carers Strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Performance and Audit Committee
- i. Note the updated action plan attached at Appendix 1 and
 - ii. provide any comment in relation to this progress.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION







- 3.1 The Carers Scotland Act (2016) sets out statutory requirements for Health Boards and Local Authorities to develop local Carers and Young Carers Strategies. The legal duties were subsequently delegated to Health and Social Care Partnerships across Scotland.
- 3.2 The Act sets out duties as regards to young carers which are:
- A duty to prepare and review Young Carer Statements;
 - Establishment of local eligibility criteria for services for young carers;
 - A duty to provide support;
 - A duty to involve young carers in the planning of services;
 - A duty to establish and maintain an information service for carers and to produce a short break services statement; and
 - A duty to develop local carers' strategies
- 3.3 A decision was taken in South Ayrshire to develop discrete Adult and Young Carers Strategies albeit recognising the need for significant linkage. South Ayrshire IJB approved the Adult Carers Strategy (2019-24) in 2019.
- 3.4 The Young Carers Strategy was developed through consultation with young carers, organisations and professions supporting young carers and the wider Integrated Children's Service Planning and Community Planning groupings.
- 3.5 The Strategy is based on the requirements of the Carers Scotland Act (2016) but most significantly the needs and concerns raised through the engagement with local young carers.
- 3.6 The Young Carers Strategy and associated Implementation Plan was approved by the [Integration Joint Board on 12 February 2021](#). This paper provides an update on the progress made against all areas of the Action Plan, in keeping

with the IJB's agreement to remit monitoring of delivery to the Performance and Audit Committee.

- 3.7 The Implementation Plan is designed to take forward key strategic outcomes.
- 3.8 This report and the attached update, produced through the performance monitoring system (Pentana) (see Appendix 1), provides a further update on each individual action item contained within the Implementation Plan.

4. REPORT

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Performance and Audit Committee considers the progress that has been made against the actions set out in the Young Carers Strategy 2021-2026.
- 4.2 A summary table is provided below:

Status	Number
 Completed	6
 On target	26
 Showing some concerns	1
 Not on target	0
 Not due to start	0
 Superseded by new action/strategy	0

* Action 'Showing some concerns' delayed due to Covid

- 4.3 The Performance and Audit Committee may wish to note the following highlights, under each of the Strategy's themes:
1. I am safe, healthy and active
 2. I am nurtured, achieving and respected
 3. I am responsible and included

I am safe, healthy and active

- 4.4 7 GP surgeries have volunteered to participate in a pilot to improve identification of young carers in primary care. All staff (admin and clinical) will complete an in-person training session and resources will be provided to the surgeries (leaflets, posters, visuals for screen displays). There will be a dedicated link/QR code to monitor the impact of this pilot. The baseline for referrals from primary care is zero. Primary care is a fantastic avenue for identifying young carers, meaning we can offer support to ensure they have similar outcomes to their peers who are not caring and ensure their caring role is sustainable – reducing any potential impact on services.
- 4.5 Tutoring pilot – completed June. Each pupil was matched with an Education student from UWS. The student liaised with the pupil's class teacher and created fun and engaging sessions to support the pupil on a one-to-one basis.

Two pupils had face to face tutoring sessions and four pupils had online sessions. Feedback from the Head Teacher, class teachers, pupils and students has been extremely positive, and we are planning to work with UWS to replicate this on a larger scale this academic year.

- 4.6 Period products initiative – young carers and anyone who lives in their household can request a 3-month supply of disposable and/or reusable sanitary products. These are packaged in discreet packaging and delivered to the young carer's home or a mutually agreed community setting. Since launch in July 2023, we have supplied 53 people with almost 500 boxes of disposable products and nearly 100 reusable products. Recent feedback shows all people who ordered would order again, 80% of respondents had ordered/tried reusable products for the first time and 100% of these people would continue using them. This initiative has been zero cost due to working with partners on delivery.
- 4.7 New school policy, management guidelines and training package developed for education settings. Awaiting SEEMiS configuration change so this can be reflected within the documents, testing by Education staff and sign off. These will then be disseminated across all schools.
- 4.8 We are working with Barnardos to develop and host roadshows with our short film, 'The Weekend', in all secondary schools to raise awareness of who a young carer is to increase self-identification and peer understanding and challenge stigma.
- 4.9 Work begins with primary aged young people in November 2023 on our 'Wee Carers' movie. Two young people who worked on 'The Weekend' will be peer mentors for this project. We are hoping to launch with another Oscars night in February 2024.
- 4.10 Various funding applications have been successful at an individual and school level for young carers.

I am nurtured, achieving and respected

- 4.11 Young Carer Ambassadors from Carrick Academy have joined the Young Carer Strategy Implementation Group to provide lived experience input at a strategic level.
- 4.12 New young carer activities developed and/or supported by HSCP:
 - 6-week figure skating block (Changing Lives Through Sport)
 - Scottish Rowing sessions continued and now offered to Marr College pupils.
 - Free scuba/mermaid sessions at Ayr Show
 - Free wristbands for unlimited access to fun fair at the Ayr Show.
 - Family passes for free entry to Culzean.
 - Christmas days out at Dalleagles House (Honeypot)
 - Carers Parliament (8th November)

- Young Carers Festival
- Little Art School sessions
- Family residential at the National Sports Centre in Largs

4.13 Drop-in sessions take place monthly in each secondary school in South Ayrshire, facilitated by the carers service. This provides consistent, local and easily accessible support for all secondary aged young carers. This also provides an opportunity for young people who think they may be young carers to reach out for information and advice and reduces stigma due to increasing visibility in schools.

I am responsible and included

4.14 We premiered our awareness raising short film, *The Weekend*, with *A Night at the Oscars*. This provided a local platform to raise the profile of young carers. The young carers involved in the project participated in a Question & Answer session. The event was attended by almost 300 people, including the Chief Executive, Elected Members, Police Scotland, colleagues from the Council, Health and Social Care Partnership, Health, 3rd Sector services, and members of the public. The event was also featured in local press in print and online.

4.15 Carers Week: This year was our most action-packed Carers Week to date! We worked in partnership with the South Ayrshire carers centre team and partners to provide a bigger-than-ever weeklong celebration of young carers. There were a whopping 22 experiences on offer for our young carers, which included session with The Little Art School, a film screening, wellbeing walks, trips to the escape rooms, ice-cream days and park trips.

Employability & Skills hosted an amazing employability festival at the Cutty Sark for young carers with activities, stalls from various organisations, live music and food. As well as having the opportunity to discuss opportunities with stall holders, the young carers who attended enjoyed interactive games wearing goggles which simulated the effects of drugs and alcohol which included trying to erect a tent!

As well as celebrating with our young carers, we had a social media takeover, articles in local press, held information stalls across the Authority and participated in a Facebook Live session hosted by the Champions Board to raise awareness.

4.16 Young Carers Action Day: We celebrated Young Carers Action Day on 15th March this year. We had a social media takeover for the day and shared posts including pledges colleagues to support young carers, artwork from young carers and awareness raising information. The Wallace Tower was lit up purple to raise awareness.

Two young carers from Marr College were invited to join a panel in a webinar hosted by Education Scotland and Carers Trust Scotland to launch a new CPD accredited module on young carers (which features our short film!). Craig and Stephanie spoke very well about their experiences and challenges in Education

due to their caring role and asked the rest of the panel some tricky questions of their own!

- 4.17 **Active April:** Young carers throughout South Ayrshire explored the importance and benefits of being physically active during Active April. Lots of activities were on offer for young carers, including, beach days, walking groups and a trip to Hampden Park. Awareness raising and sign-up sessions for Activ8 memberships were held in each locality.
- 4.18 **Troon Carers Day:** The first Troon Carers Day was held in February 2023. This was a very successful event and the first Carers Day that young carers have been invited to. There were a multitude of services with stalls at the event, fantastic entertainment from Marr College and local primary school pupils, including a pipe band, singing and dancing, and a preview showing of our young carer short film, *The Weekend*.
- 4.19 Two of our young carers who were involved in the video project and subsequent awareness raising sessions were recognised by their school, Belmont Academy, in the annual Broad General Education Prizegiving. Heather and Caleb were presented an Achievement Award for 'Contribution to raising awareness for Young Carers in South Ayrshire'. Heather was also awarded a Blue Peter badge for sharing her lived experience as a young carer in awareness raising activities, which has included the video project, several newspaper articles, a Facebook Live session, presenting at the Child Protection Committee, and hosting a number of other events to raise the profile of young carers in South Ayrshire.

5. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

5.1 The Young Carers Strategy aligns to the following strategic objectives:

- We focus on prevention and tackling inequality
- We nurture and are part of communities that care for each other
- We are transparent and listen to you

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial Implications

6.1.1 There are no specific financial implications arising directly from the consideration of this report.

6.2 Human Resource Implications

6.2.1 There are no specific human resource implications arising directly from the consideration of this report.

6.3 Legal Implications

6.3.1 There are no specific legal implications arising directly from the consideration of this report.

6.4 Equalities implications

6.4.1 There are no specific equality implications arising directly from the consideration of this report.

6.5 Sustainability implications

6.5.1 There are no sustainability implications arising directly from the consideration of this report.

6.6 Clinical/professional assessment

6.6.1 There is no requirement for a clinical/professional assessment.

7. CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

7.1 This report has been prepared in consultation with relevant officers.

8. RISK ASSESSMENT

8.1. There are no immediate risks associated with the approval of this report. Delivery of the action items set out in the Plan at Appendix 1 will minimise risks to the successful integration of health and social care services in South Ayrshire and lead to effective and collaborative working at all levels – strategic and operational – across the system.

REPORT AUTHOR AND PERSON TO CONTACT

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

25th September 2023