

<b>Meeting of South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership</b>	<b>Performance &amp; Audit Committee</b>
<b>Held on:</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> April 2024</b>
<b>Agenda Item:</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Progress Report on Young Carers Strategy 2021-2026</b>
<b>Summary:</b>	
<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>	
<b>Author:</b>	Claire Flanagan – Young Carers Strategy Lead Officer
<b>Recommendations:</b>	
<p>It is recommended that the Performance and Audit Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Note the updated action plan attached at Appendix 1 and</li> <li>ii. provide any comment in relation to this progress.</li> </ul>	
<b>Route to meeting:</b>	
<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>	
<b>Implications:</b>	
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	5
 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 Work has begun on the Wee Carers movie. We have held multiple sessions with primary aged young carers to discuss their experiences, thoughts and feelings on caring. Three fictional stories have been written based on this and two have already been filmed. Two of the young people involved in The Weekend have been assisting as peer mentors. We plan to have another Night at the Oscars event to launch this which will be hosted by the children involved in the project. The film will then be disseminated to primary schools with an information package for them to share with all primary aged children.
- 4.5 We have held our first secondary school week-long roadshow at Ayr Academy in partnership with the new Whole Family Approach Team and the carers service. We asked the WFA team to partner on this project due to The

Weekend addressing parental substance use and thought it important to highlight the drug and alcohol specific support available in addition to support as a young carer. The roadshow consisted of assemblies each morning for S1, S2, S3, and S4-6, followed by a marketplace event where various organisations that can support young carers and families held a stall with information and advice. An electronic survey was completed by the young people who attended – 20% are supporting a loved one due to problematic substance use and 30% believe they are a young carer. All other secondary schools are now arranging a roadshow at their school. This has been delayed due to school holidays and exam leave, but it is hoped that all schools will have completed by the end of this academic year.

- 4.6 Our young carer film project has won a number of awards, including:
- Scottish Public Services Award – Championing Diversity & Inclusion
  - Great British Care Awards, Scotland/North East England regional final
  - Great British Care Award, grand UK Finals, Unpaid Carer
  - Finalist in National Youth Work Awards, Equality & Diversity (ceremony June 2024)
- 4.7 We have been chosen as a pilot area for Carers Trust Scotland (on behalf of Scottish Government) Schools Challenge Award. To obtain the award, all schools must meet the following criteria:
- Have a Young Carer Champion
  - Have a school policy for young carers
  - Have all young carers recorded on SEEMiS
  - All staff to be trained on young carers
- All schools in South Ayrshire will meet all criteria on the first in-service day of the next academic year (August).
- 4.8 We were successful in our bid to support a late breakfast club at Ayr Academy. We are partnering with Champs Board, Thriving Communities, and our commissioned carers service to deliver this. We are partnering with Active Schools (Thriving Communities) and our commissioned carers service to offer swimming lessons to all young carers who live in the Maybole and North Carrick area. We have secured £3,000 which will cover the lessons, transport to and from school and any additional expenses (e.g., swimming costumes, goggles) that the young carers may have.
- 4.9 We are now able to report on young carers who are also care experienced. We are working with Dawn Parker and Education to create reporting on attendance and attainment for these children and young people and will be identifying any additional needs/barriers that we need to address.

#### I am nurtured, achieving and respected

- 4.10 Due to the dramatic increase in the number of known young carers in primary schools, we have prioritised establishing a voice group for their age and stage. The first meeting will be a weekend away at Honey Pot House where we will review the strategy and priorities in relation to primary aged children. Our

commissioned carers service had planned to adopt a Champs Board model, so will be partnering with us on this and the secondary aged voice group.

4.11 New young carer activities developed and/or supported by HSCP:

- Family passes for Culzean
- Honeypot Christmas memory days
- Honeypot residential
- Wee carers movie project
- Alloway Tunnel project
- Tempura mural project
- Carers Parliament
- LDAN Bill project
- Scottish Parliament – Cross Party Group
- Scottish Rowing – launch of new pontoon
- Family residential at the National Sports Centre in Largs

4.12 Our young carers were encouraged to disclose their caring role within UCAS applications so that they were able to apply via Widening Access, if required. One example of this is a young carer from Belmont Academy who was successful in obtaining an offer to study Medicine at Glasgow Academy – this would not have been possible without having disclosed caring responsibilities and Widening Access.

4.13 Following feedback from families and staff identifying young carers under the age of 5, we have set up a working group as there was no way of recording and reporting on this age group and very little support available. The initial meeting was extremely successful, and we now have a method of reporting and recording data for young carers under the age of 5. This means these children can be supported in their transition to school as information can be passed from Lead Professional (Health Visitor) to Lead Professional (school), and children are able to access Activ8+, respite funding and hardship funding.

I am responsible and included

4.14 Young carers attended Prestwick Carers Day for the first time. Over one third (35%) of people who attended were young carers. The event consisted of stalls hosted by organisations who could provide additional support for carers and families, musical performances by Prestwick Academy pupils and an afternoon tea. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

4.15 YCSLO has continued to attend parents' evenings and school events to raise awareness of young carers. These have been great opportunities to speak directly with families and staff, share information on young carers, alleviate any family fears of identifying their children as young carers and tackle stigma.

4.16 Young Carers Action Day: Young Carers Action Day – our young carers were invited to Scottish Parliament to hear a debate on young carers. We were delighted to hear Elena Whitham MSP praise the work in South Ayrshire in her speech! We were invited to the Cross-Party Group on Unpaid Carers. Two of

our young carers, Flynn and Joshua, participated in the round table discussion, sharing their experiences of caring with MSPs.

4.17 Wallacetoun – we are working closely with the staff at Wallacetoun due to the prevalence of unpaid carers in lower deciles. This has proven to be very beneficial with whole families being identified as carers (young and adult) and then signposted and supported by staff to access additional support.

## 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**

Name: Claire Flanagan – Young Carers Strategy Lead Officer

Phone number: 01292 616677

Email address: [claire.flanagan@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:claire.flanagan@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**