

Meeting of South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership	Performance and Audit Committee
Held on:	3rd December 2024
Agenda Item:	7
Title:	Adult Carers Strategy 2019-2024
Summary:	
<p>As the current Adult Carers Strategy 2019-2024 approaches its conclusion, the purpose of this report is to provide a final update to the Performance and Audit Committee on the progress of the actions contained within the implementation plan.</p> <p>This report includes an attached update produced through the Pentana performance monitoring system (Appendix 1), providing an overview on each individual action item included in the strategy Implementation Plan. This report will also cover some more recent updates that will inform us moving forward with a new strategy in 2025.</p>	
Author:	Steven Kelly/ Lauren Logan
Recommendations:	
<p>It is recommended that the Performance and Audit Committee</p> <p>i. Note the progressed action plan attached at Appendix 1 ii. Provide any comment in relation to the progress of the actions. iii Consider and comment on recent updates.</p>	
Route to meeting:	
<p>The Adult Carers Strategy 2019-2024 was approved at the meeting of the Integration Joint Board on 16 May 2019. Ongoing progress reports have been submitted to the Performance and Audit Committee on a six-monthly basis with the previous report provided in May 2024.</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"/>

ADULT CARERS STRATEGY 2019-2024

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

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 Adult Carers Strategy 2019-24.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Performance and Audit Committee

- i. Note the progress set out in the action plan attached at Appendix 1
- ii. provide any comment in relation to progress of actions.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 The Carers (Scotland) Act 2018 sets out statutory requirements for Health Boards and Local Authorities to develop local Carers and Young Carers Strategies. The legal duties incorporated in the Act were subsequently delegated to Health and Social Care Partnerships across Scotland.

3.2 The Act came into effect on 1st April 2018 and is designed to support carers' health and wellbeing, helping them to remain in their caring roles and be able to manage their own life alongside their caring responsibilities.

3.3 Key aspects of the Act include:

- *A duty to develop and offer an adult carer support plan to someone who is identified as a Carer.*
- *A duty to set out and publish local eligibility criteria including recognition that support will be provided if the eligible criteria are met.*
- *A duty to provide support to carers*
- *A duty to publish a Short Breaks Statement.*
- *A duty to provide carers with information and advice services.*
- *A duty to have in place support for carers at the point of hospital discharge.*
- *A duty to involve both adult and young carers in the planning of services; and*
- *A duty to develop and keep up to date a local adult's carer strategy.*

3.4 The decision in South Ayrshire was to develop separate Adult and Young Carers Strategies while recognising the need for significant linkage. South Ayrshire Integration Joint Board separately approved the Young Carers Strategy in 2020.

3.5 The South Ayrshire Carers Strategic Planning Group developed the current Adult Strategy and its associated strategic implementation plan with direct input from carers and support from local partners, including South Ayrshire Carers Centre, Crossroads and Ayrshire Hospice.

- 3.6 As the current strategy timeframe nears its conclusion, this paper provides an update on the progress against areas set out in the Pentana Implementation Plan, in keeping with the IJB’s agreement to delegate monitoring delivery to the Performance and Audit Committee.
- 3.7 The actions included in the Implementation Plan are designed to take forward South Ayrshire’s key strategic outcomes set out in the strategy.

4. Report

4.1 Carers Policy Implementation Officer

4.1.1 Important for consideration within this report is that during the life cycle of this strategy there has been several changes to the Carers Implementation Post with no officer being in post between August 2022 and April 2023. A temporary officer was recruited in April 2023 for a period of 12 months with the permanent post holder returning in April 2024.

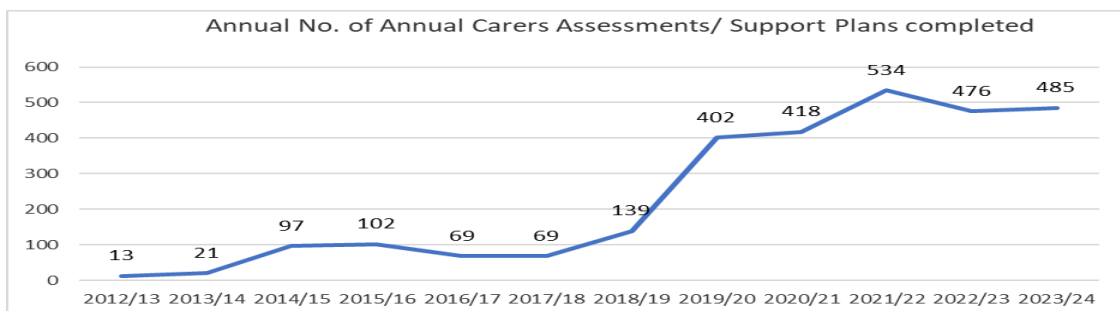
4.1.2 The carers strategic lead has also changed in August 2024 due to the retirement of the previous lead officer. A new strategic group has been formed with the dual focus of finishing the current strategy and planning ahead with regards to developing a refreshed strategy in 2025.

4.2 A summary table of actions set out in the Pentana report (Appendix 1) provided below:

Status	Number
✓ Completed	29
🟢 On target	4
🟡 Showing some concerns	0
🔴 Not on target	0
⚙️ Not due to start	0

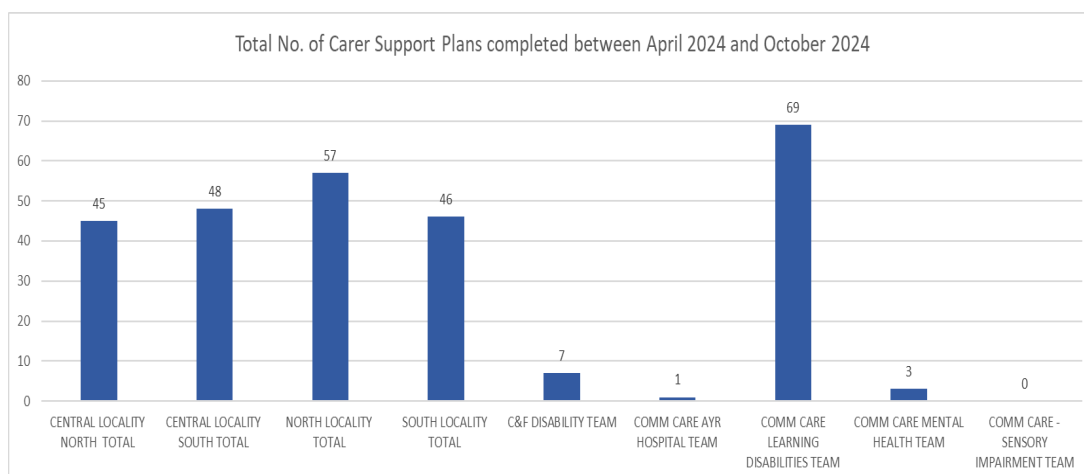
4.3 Adult Carer Support Plans

4.3.1 Since the introduction of the current strategy there has been an increase of over 70% in the numbers of Adult Carer Support Plans completed over the current strategy timeline. Last year the number had reduced slightly suggested and this was down to recruitment issues across staff teams.



4.4 Carer Support Plans by Team

4.4.1 Following the commencement of the new strategic carers group in August 2024, we have refreshed the membership of the group and focussed on the completed support plans by operational team over the last six months. We can see there is a consistency across all adult care teams with the exception of both the Mental Health and Hospital Teams. This has been highlighted as an area for improvement through the strategic working group and is being taken forward by the relevant service manager.



4.5 Carers Census

4.5.1 The results from the 2022 Census in relation to Carers was released by National Register for Scotland on 3rd October 2024.

Census Results -Hours per week spent caring comparison 2011,2022.								
Unpaid Care		All unpaid carers	Population	% of total population identifying as an unpaid carer	Yes, 1 to 19 hours a week	Yes, 20 to 34 hours a week	Yes, 35 to 49 hours a week	Yes, 50 or more hours a week
2011 Census	Ayrshire	11709	112799	10.4	6424	1087	954	3244
Difference	Number	1914			1063	290	385	175
	% change	16% increase			16% increase	27% increase	40% increase	5% increase
Unpaid Care		All unpaid carers	Population	% of total population identifying as an unpaid carer	Yes, 1 to 19 hours a week	Yes, 20 to 34 hours a week	Yes, 35 to 49 hours a week	Yes, 50 or more hours a week
2011 Census		492231	5295403	9.3	273333	46315	40501	132082
Difference	Number	135476			77333	15554	22349	20240
	% change	27% increase			28% increase	33% increase	55% increase	15% increase

Source: Census 2022 and Census 2011 Results NRS Scotland

Census Results -Hours per week spent caring comparison 2011,2022.

South Ayrshire					Scotland				
Unpaid Care	Provides unpaid care 2011	Provides unpaid care 2022	Change		Unpaid Care	Provides unpaid care 2011	Provides unpaid care 2022	Change	
			No.	Percentage				No.	Percentage
All people aged 3 and over	11708	13623	1915	16%	All people aged 3 and over	492231	627707	135476	27%
3 to 15	220	238	18	8%	3 to 15	10002	13652	3650	36%
16 to 24	571	680	109	19%	16 to 24	27391	38690	11299	41%
25 to 34	722	1058	336	46%	25 to 34	41348	62176	20828	50%
35 to 49	3036	2815	-221	-7%	35 to 49	142457	150931	8474	6%
50 to 64	4463	5452	989	22%	50 to 64	176055	238800	62745	36%
65 and over	2697	3381	684	25%	65 and over	94978	123460	28482	30%

4.5.2 Following the change of the strategic lead in August 2024, a new strategic working group has been formed with the focus on completing the implementation plan and utilising both national developments and local performance data to inform the development and delivery of the new strategy for 2025. This work has already commenced by ensuring we have a better understanding of both statutory and commissioned services through regular performance reporting. An example of this work in progress can be viewed in the Gateway report (Appendix 2) and this contributes to the whole system picture of how we are identifying and supporting carers across South Ayrshire.

4.5.3 The completion of the re-commissioning process with the Carers Centre was finalised in March 2024 and includes the development of a new Carers Gateway Service provided by Unity. Initial challenges with recruitment have now been resolved and we are beginning to see a much more integrated delivery of support with workers being based in the newly opened Connect Hub and further plans to locate them in each of the localities. This will provide increased identification of carers, improve links with other services and deliver more accessible support to meet Carers needs across all localities in South Ayrshire.

4.6 Pentana Update- key themes to be progressed.

4.6.1 The Carers Strategy Implementation plan includes 33 actions of which 29 of them are complete. The four actions that have ongoing work will continue to progress and if required carry forward to the new strategy.

CAR: 10 Develop an annual Adult Carers Survey to collect the views and experiences of carers.

4.6.2 The Carers Policy Implementation Officer together with the Commissioning Officer have developed a survey to gather carers views and experiences in support of the new re-commissioned carers service. Consultation work with adult carers has taken place through a number of drop ins at Adult Carer support groups and events over the last few months, to promote the survey and ask if carers would kindly complete. The survey is currently open until the end of November 2024. Work is still required to develop a broader and more specific annual carers survey.

CAR 23 Continue to support and develop a range of community-based carer information and support services within the Community Led Support (CLS) programme and South Ayrshire Life.

4.6.3 The development of the Connect website and hub in Ayr will offer and provide more community based (in person) and online/telephone support and information for carers. The Gateway service has also launched a new website which provides access to a wide range of information to meet the needs of carers. Moving forward, we need to ensure both carer information systems are linked, promoted, and embedded in our locality-based approach.

Car 24 Review the Short Break Statement on an annual basis

4.6.4 The Short Breaks Statement and the carers eligibility criteria remains in place and published online. As opposed to reviewing these as the current strategy concludes, they will be reviewed in line with the development of the new strategy, and this will be carried out in consultation with Carers and other partners.

Car 25 Support carers with eligible needs to have choice and control and access short breaks through access to SDS.

4.6.5 Carers continue to be supported through SDS as part of their individual Support Planning process when they have a completed ACSP. The SDS lead is a core member of the Carers Strategic working group and is exploring a range of creative options with statutory staff. The Gateway service have also provided 170 creative short break options for carers through other funding streams since July 2024.

4.6.6 The remainder of the actions in the Pentana implementation plan are complete. With regards to existing training and knowledge of the Carers Act across all front-line staff, the Carers Policy Officer is currently working alongside the Practice Development Team to carry out a training needs analysis. This includes looking at incorporating how we can use the revised Equal Partners in Care (EPIC) training as a mandatory module for all Social Work and Social Care staff.

4.7 Gateway Performance Report (highlights)

Key Statistics Gateway Service June-October 2024	
Total Numbers of registered carers	1097
Instances of support April- October	1488
New referrals April- October	140
ACSP Completed April-October	89
Short breaks/respite provided since July 2024	170
As the community-based model continues to be established there is now monthly carer support groups established across every locality in South Ayrshire.	
Carers Reference Group continues to provide feedback on HSCP Strategy developments.	
A key priority is the development of a carers 'champions board' building on experience in other areas and providing a voice for carers.	

4.8 Key areas moving forward for the strategy:

- Refresh a training and awareness raising including practice enhancement sessions by locality for front-line Social Work and other staff informed by the outcome of the training needs analysis. With a particular focus on areas with a low uptake of ACSP.
- Community based access to information – continue to promote and link the Connect and Bridgit offer through relevant marketing/media channels to increase the identification and provision of information support for carers.
- Review and publish an updated Short Breaks Statement and Carers Eligibility Criteria in line with new strategy development.
- Continued roll out and evolution of Locality Carers Days and develop an annual diary of events.
- Continue the roll out of the Carers Gateway Service- ensuring it is embedded and works in partnership with and across locality teams.
- Commence work on new 'Carers Strategy' working beginning with the EQIA and setting a clear plan and timescale to the SPAG on 17th December.

5. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

5.1 The Adult Carers Strategy supports the Partnership's Strategic Objectives, namely:

- We focus on prevention and tackling inequality
- We nurture and are part of communities that care for each other
- We work together to give the right care in the right place
- We help to build communities where people are safe
- We are an ambitious and effective Partnership
- We are transparent and listen to you
- We make a positive impact beyond the services we deliver

6 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial Implications

6.1.1 There are no financial implications in considering this report.

6.2 Human Resource Implications

6.2.1 There are no staffing implications in considering this report.

6.3 Legal Implications

6.3.1 There are no Legal Implications in considering this report.

6.3.2 For reference, The Carers (Scotland) Act (2016) sets out statutory duties in relation to Carers and young carers that have been delegated by both parent bodies for the IJB to address. This report reflects areas of these legal duties and how they are met through their various bodies of work.

6.4 Equalities implications

6.4.1 A full equality impact assessment will be commenced as we move forward with the development of a new carer's strategy.

6.5 Sustainability implications

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

6.6 Clinical/professional assessment

6.6.1 There is no requirement for a Clinical/Professional assessment for consideration of this report.

7 CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

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

8 RISK ASSESSMENT

8.1 There are no immediate risks associated with the approval of this report. Delivery 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.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – HSCP Adults Carers Strategy 2019 -2024 – Pentana Action Log

Appendix 2 – Carers Gateway South Ayrshire – Monitoring Report – July – September 2024

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