

<b>Meeting of South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership</b>	<b>Strategic Planning Advisory Group</b>	
<b>Held on:</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> March 2025</b>	
<b>Agenda item:</b>	<b>7</b>	
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Adult Carers Strategy 2019 – 2024 update</b>	
<b>Summary:</b>		
<p>The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on the progress of refreshing the Adult Carers Strategy 2019-2024.</p>		
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Steven Kelly- Strategic Carers Lead</b> <b>Rachael Graham – Planning and Performance Coordinator</b>	
<b>Recommendations:</b>		
<p>It is recommended that the Strategic Planning Advisory Group:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Note the progress made in refreshing the Adult Carers Strategy; and</li> <li>II. Note that progress reports on the revised strategy development will be brought to SPAG until the final strategy is approved at IJB.</li> </ol>		
<b>Route to meeting:</b>		
<p>The previous Carers Strategy 2019-2024 has concluded, and we are now in the process of developing a refreshed strategy for adult carers. The final summary of the previous strategy including the pentana action plan was presented to the Performance and Audit Committee in December 2024. The publication of the refreshed <a href="#">National Carers Strategy</a> in December 2022 will be considered as we commence our local development.</p>		
<b>Directions:</b>		<b>Implications:</b>
1. No Directions Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Financial <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Directions to NHS Ayrshire & Arran <input type="checkbox"/>		HR <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Directions to South Ayrshire Council <input type="checkbox"/>		Legal <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Directions to both SAC & NHS <input type="checkbox"/>		Equalities <input type="checkbox"/>
		Sustainability <input type="checkbox"/>
		Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		ICT <input type="checkbox"/>

## ADULT CARERS STRATEGY - UPDATE

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on the progress of refreshing the Adult Carers Strategy.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION

#### **2.1 It is recommended that the Strategic Planning Advisory Group:**

- I. **Note the progress made in refreshing the Adult Carers Strategy; and**
- II. **Note that progress reports on the revised strategy will be brought to SPAG until the final strategy is approved at IJB.**

### 3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The previous South Ayrshire Carers Strategy 2019-2024 was informed by local consultation and the launch of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 which came into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2018.
- 3.2 The Carers Act was the first-time legislation was passed in its own right for carers and it was accompanied with a national strategy setting out a clear mandate focussed on the significant role of unpaid carers and at the same time setting out a requirement to strengthen both the rights and improve the support available to all Carers across Scotland.
- 3.3 In our previous strategy we set out to improve identification and the support provided to carers, and we recognised that supporting the role of unpaid carers was fundamental to achieving positive outcomes set out in a range of other local adult care strategies. This is due to the significant contribution that adult carers make across all areas of adult health and social care and our commitment was to support carers to continue in their caring role whilst not compromising their own health and well-being.
- 3.4 A report for the Adult Carers Strategy 2019-2024 was taken to Performance and Audit committee in December 2024 detailing the progress we made during the lifespan of the previous strategy and set out our intentions to refresh our Carers Strategy.
- 3.5 The lifespan of the previous strategy covered the unprecedented challenges associated with Covid 19. The refreshed [Carers National Strategy](#) launched by the Scottish Government in December 2022 also reflects the challenges of the pandemic. There has also been an update to the [Carers Statutory Guidance](#) in July 2021 which will need to be factored in to our refreshed strategy.

3.6 The proposed timescale and planning to develop a refreshed Adult Carers Strategy will be covered in this report with regular updates provided to SPAG.

#### 4. REPORT

4.1 The refresh of the Adult Carers Strategy commenced in January 2025. This will consider learning from the previous strategy alongside the new 2022 National Strategy and also incorporate the requirements set out in the updated statutory guidance. Central to our approach will also be consultation and engagement with carers with lived experience and other key stakeholders.

4.2 We have started to draft an Integrated Impact Assessment, explore the current policy landscape and develop our approach to wider engagement. A clear timeline has been established with the aim to seek IJB approval for a refreshed Adult Carers Strategy in September 2024:

Strategic Context and Policy Review Engagement Workshop for key Stakeholders across South Ayrshire	March 2025
Early Consultation and Engagement with Carers and wider stakeholders.	March – April 2025
Commence Strategy Development/Writing	May – June 2025
Further Engagement on draft proposals	June – August 2025
Final Amendments to Strategy and Action Plan	August 2025
Agreement at IJB – Staggered approach to agreement	Autumn/Winter 2025
Monitoring of delivery plan at IJB's Performance and Audit committee	From early 2026

4.3 The Strategic lead for adult carers supported will be supported by the adult carers policy officer and a designated officer from Planning and Performance to ensure the timeline and development of the strategy remains on track.

4.4 The Adult Carers Strategic Planning group will be utilised as a steering group to provide ongoing input and monitor progress through scheduled monthly meetings. This group includes senior operational staff from across adult services and also includes the Coordinator for Planning and Performance.

4.5 During the writing process, updates on progress will also be brought to the Strategic Planning Advisory Group during 2025 until the strategy is agreed by the IJB towards in September 2025.

4.6 Through consultation and feedback, the drafting of the refreshed strategy will follow the steps set out below:

### **Communication and Engagement**

- A communications and engagement plan will be developed to make sure all known stakeholders and the public are aware that a strategy is being developed and they will be encouraged to contribute their views in its development.
- The engagement plan will adopt a phased approach to enable us to gather and make sense of feedback and we shall utilise a wide range of engagement methods to reach as many people as possible.
- We already have established Carers groups across all of our localities and a Carers Reference Group who will be included in our communications plan.
- Carers week in June will also provide us with opportunities to celebrate carers and gather feedback.
- The impact of carers cuts across a wide range of the adult demographic and we will use planned events/opportunities to engage with a full range of citizens, partners and internal stakeholders to participate and provide feedback.

### **Governance**

- The Strategic Carers Group will operate as a steering/governance group and will meet monthly throughout the period of developing this strategy.
- The DMT is scheduled to be updated on the development of the refreshed strategy on 12<sup>th</sup> March and further updates will be provided.
- Regular oversight and input will be provided by the IJB Strategic Planning Advisory Group.

### **Next Steps**

- The initial next step will be to assess the current position. This involves undertaking a strategic review of the implementation plan of the current strategy and identifying what areas will be carried forward at the same time considering the current landscape of carers services in South Ayrshire.
- Data available from the 2024 national census illustrates an increase in carers in South Ayrshire:

**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%

- Review and consider the [National Carers Strategy 2022](#) alongside the updated statutory guidance.
- Plan activities and engagement with carers and wider stakeholders that will shape the strategic outcomes and vision for carers across South Ayrshire.
- A scoping workshop Session already took place on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025 with a wide range of stakeholders to begin to explore how and what should be included in a refreshed Carers Strategy moving forward.
- Engagement with carers will take place to hear, not only their life experiences, but also gather their views about solutions and the kind of objectives/support that would be most useful.
- As we progress with consultation and develop our strategic objectives, we will begin to draft our implementation plan to include measurable actions with relevant performance indicators.
- Initial meetings have taken place to commence the Integrated Impact Assessment, and this is a live document and will be updated/reviewed as the Strategy progresses to ensure it meets the needs of the people in South Ayrshire.

## 5. [STRATEGIC CONTEXT](#)

5.1 The Carers Strategy will align to the following strategic objectives:

- We nurture and are part of communities that care for each other
- We work together to give you the right care in the right place
- We help build communities where people are safe
- 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 human resource implications to agreeing this report.

### **6.3 Legal Implications**

6.3.1 There are no legal implications to agreeing this report.

### **6.4 Equalities implications**

6.4.1 A detailed Integrated Impact Assessment is underway and will be completed as part of developing a refreshed Carers Strategy. The new Integrated Impact Assessment Tool will be used and completed in line with the aforementioned strategy development timescales.

### **6.5 Sustainability implications**

6.5.1 There are no sustainability implications to agreeing to this report.

### **6.6 Clinical/professional assessment**

6.6.1 There is no requirement for clinical/professional assessment for this specific report.

## **7. CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

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

7.2 Significant consultation will be undertaken during the preparation of the strategy. A full range of citizens, partners and stakeholders will be encouraged to participate. A communication and engagement plan will set out the course or activity.

## **8. RISK ASSESSMENT**

8.1 There are no risks in agreeing this report.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

[Scottish Government: National Carers Strategy](#)

[Update to Carers Statutory Guidance: July 2021](#)

### **REPORT AUTHOR AND PERSON TO CONTACT**

Name: Steven Kelly

Email address: [steven.kelly@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:steven.kelly@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)