

<p>Meeting of South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership</p> <p>Held on:</p>	<p>Performance and Audit Committee</p> <p>5th May 2026</p>
<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>Title:</p>	<p>Adult Carers Strategy 2025-2030</p>
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The ‘Live Well’ Adult Carers Strategy 2025- 2030 was approved at the IJB in October 2025. 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 implementation plan.</p> <p>This report will cover key developments along with relevant performance information as we implement the key objectives set out in the new strategy. This report also includes a full update of the current implementation plan that provides an overview on each individual action and is hosted on Pentana. (Appendix 1),</p>	
<p>Author:</p>	<p>Steven Kelly, Quality Assurance Officer</p>
<p>Recommendations:</p> <p>It is recommended that the Performance and Audit Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Note the progress being made in implementing the Adult Carers Strategy 2025-2030. ii. Provide any comment in relation to the related performance information and/or progress of the actions. iii. Consider the wider Pentana update (Appendix 1) 	
<p>Route to meeting:</p> <p>The ‘Live Well’ Adult Carers Strategy 2019-2024 was approved at the meeting of the Integration Joint Board on 8th October 2025. It was also agreed that ongoing progress reports would be submitted to the Performance and Audit Committee on a six-monthly basis with the first update in April/May 2026.</p>	
<p>Implications:</p> <p>Financial <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>HR <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Legal <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Equalities <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Sustainability <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Policy <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>ICT <input type="checkbox"/></p>	

ADULT CARERS STRATEGY 2019-2024

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 implementing the 'Live Well' Adult Carers Strategy 2025-30.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Performance and Audit Committee**
- i. **Note the progress being made in implementing the Adult Carers Strategy 2025-2030.**
 - ii. **Provide any comment in relation to the related performance information and/or progress of the actions.**
 - iii. **Consider the wider Pentana update (Appendix 1)**

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Carers (Scotland) Act 2018 sets out a statutory requirement 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 Carers (Scotland) 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 In South Ayrshire, it was agreed to develop separate Adult and Young Carers Strategies whilst recognising the need for significant linkage.
- 3.5 The current Adult Carers Strategy 2025-30 was developed following an extensive engagement and consultation period across our localities throughout 2025 with input from a wide range of stakeholders. From the outset of engagement and consultation and throughout the development of this strategy, there was a clear focus on recognising the huge contribution of unpaid Adult Carers make in the day-to-day delivery of health and social care services. Key objectives in this new strategy was to ensure it supported carers at each stage of their journey and enable them to continue in their caring role whilst not compromising their own health and well-being.
- 3.6 The carers strategy has four key strategic objectives, and both the delivery and timescales associated with these objectives are incorporated into a Pentana implementation plan. Monitoring progress was delegated by the IJB to provide six monthly updates to the Performance and Audit Committee.

4. Report

4.1 **Governance and Strategic Objectives.**

- 4.1.1 The Adult Carers Strategic Planning group was reconstituted and meets monthly to provide governance and monitor progress of the implementation plan. This group is made up of senior operational staff from across adult services and also includes a range of stakeholders who directly provide advice, guidance and support to carers.
- 4.1.2 The four key strategic outcomes set out in the ‘Live Well’ Carers Strategy are as follows:

1.	<i>We will improve how we identify carers earlier in their caring journey with a focus on preventative support.</i>
2.	<i>We will ensure carers have access to information and advice to support them in their caring role.</i>
3.	<i>We will value, recognise and support carers to maintain their own health and wellbeing in their caring role.</i>
4.	<i>We will work to ensure the involvement and voice of carers influences the work of the HSCP and wider partners.</i>

4.1.3 **Outcome 1: Increase identification of Carers**

- 4.1.4 A key element that came through consistently in the strategy engagement process was the early identification of carers . Carers often don’t recognise themselves as such and often struggle with aspects of their role both mentally, physically and often financially.
- 4.1.5 Early identification can often take place through access to information at various junctions, and this includes accompanying a cared for person to regular visits to Primary Care or frequent Hospital admissions.

4.1.6 In line with our locality approach and focus on prevention and early intervention we are progressing the following actions to deliver on early identification of carers:

Primary Care	Phil Hume is leading on a survey with GPs across South Ayrshire looking at how carers are identified, coded and if surgeries will consider raising awareness of carers.
Acute Care	In conjunction with carers, we have developed a carers information pack that will include core information. Work is underway for the reablement team to provide this to carers identified at point of discharge.
Carers Awareness sessions	The locality engagement officers are core members of the Carers Strategic Group and will continue to raise awareness of carers to support early identification at all locality events.
Communications	A monthly Comms meeting has been set up including both internal and external stakeholders to utilise social media in a regular and routine way to identify carers. This will include promoting both the Connect & Bridgit websites.
Identification across wider stakeholders	We will identify key partners out with the statutory services in a planned and structured approach to provide awareness packages for staff around how to identify carers, understand their responsibilities and be able to signpost to information, advice and support.

4.1.7 **Outcome 2: Access to Information and Advice**

4.1.8 The HSCP transition to a locality-based model in adult services was designed to embed access to information and support within local communities. This approach has been mirrored by the commissioned carers service (Unity Enterprise) in South Ayrshire, with the closure of the carers centre in Ayr and a move to ensuring that carers can access support closer to home.

4.1.9 The locality approach is a move away from a centralised provision to carers with increased focus around planning to ensure the connection between services and local need. Throughout development of the Carers Strategy, carers referred to the need to access information, advice and support is available and fits with their situation as a key priority.

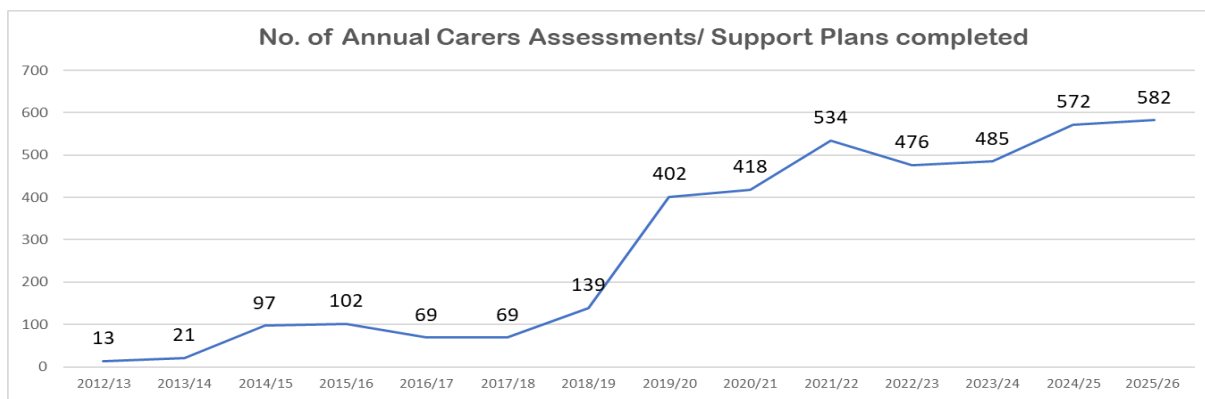
4.1.10 We are progressing the following actions to meet this objective:

Links with Connect South Ayrshire	As part of the Connect programme: Carer Hubs are delivered locally through consistent, place-based access to support across localities: Ayr Hub: All day Monday and Friday afternoons Maybole Hub: All day Wednesday Prestwick Hub: All day Friday Girvan: TBC
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Brigit Website	The self-help Bridgit (AI) website there has seen a significant increase in usage with carers accessing information, advice and developing personalised support plans. We will continue to promote this opportunity across the HSCP.
Locality Groups and individual meetings	Alongside the Connect Hubs, there are carers support groups running in Troon, Prestwick, Ayr, Maybole and Girvan, these are set up to provide both peer support and individual appointments as required.
Links with other strategies	Access to information and advice for unpaid carers is relevant across all areas of the HSCP as are clear links with other programmes and strategies. These include our involvement in the national Frailty Programme, our Adult Learning Disability and Mental Health, Ageing Well and Dementia strategies. Ensuring we refer to and involve carers across these strategies will improve access to information and advice.
Pathway development	In line with identification of carers, we will work a range of stakeholders in a similar planned and structured way to ensure they are aware of a clear and consistent local pathway to signpost carers to the information they require.

4.1.11 Outcome 3: **Recognise, value and provided support to carers**

4.1.12 Following on from the previous strategy we will look to provide formal support to carers that is focussed on their outcomes and enables them to maintain their own health and wellbeing. We have continued to increase our completion of formal adult carer support plans year on year, and we aim to continue this progress:



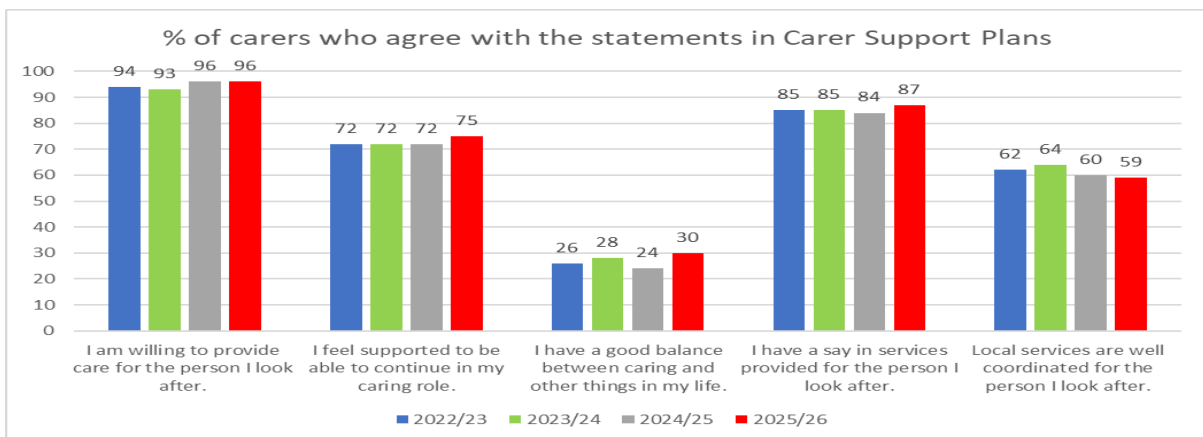
4.1.13 Further priorities in this area include:

Review Short Breaks and Eligibility criteria	Work is underway to review both documents in collaboration with the Carers Champions Board.
Review the current Carers Support Plan documentation	Set up a stakeholder group to review and streamline the current adult carers support plan with a particular focus on contingency arrangements as this was raised by carers as a

	key priority.
Access to relevant support, short breaks and planned respite opportunities.	<p>We need to look at what commissioned services we currently provide for carers- for example making links to the recent daycare work which provides regular short breaks to carers.</p> <p>We need to explore the data around SDS option 1&2 to explore what carers are utilising for short breaks.</p> <p>Access to planned respite is an area that is requires ongoing work with colleagues from Social Work and Commissioning.</p>
GIRFE	In line with our GIRFE approach, the relevant sharing of information such as carer support plans through systems is an area we need to consider moving forward.

4.1.14 Outcome 4: **Increased involvement and the voice of Carers**

4.1.15 As we developed this strategy, a recurring theme from carers feedback was the need for ongoing engagement post strategy development and the need for lived experience to influence both policy and practice on an consistent basis. We do currently gather direct feedback from carers following the completion of a support plan with a focus on the following national reporting requirements:



4.1.16 To achieve the next step and ensure the voice of carers consistently influences the work of the HSCP and wider partners we have in partnership with Unity Enterprise, moved forward to set up a South Ayrshire Carers Champions Board.

4.1.17 The first meeting of the Champions Board took place in January 2026 with terms of reference agreed. The model is simple: Identify the issue, work collaboratively with a solution focus, those in the group who can influence the change, action the solutions and finally communicate the changes. We have already seen this approach work in practice and requests from core members to invite key individuals along to the Board.

4.1.18 Although in its infancy, this is an exciting engagement model to take forward and ensure the voice of lived experience influences both strategy, policy and practice across the HSCP.

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 was completed alongside the development of the 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.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Adult Carers Strategy 2025-30

Appendix 2 - Adult Carers Strategy 2025-30 Pentana Report

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