

**SOUTH AYRSHIRE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP  
INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD  
Report by Partnership Facilitator**

**UPDATE ON PROGRESS: 2019-2024 ADULT CARERS STRATEGY  
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

**APPENDIX**

**Work to support Unpaid Carers during Covid Period**

Since the substance of the main report links to support work for Adult Carers up to February 2020 it is worth reporting on the key work that has taken place over the March to July period where Covid-related constraints have changed the delivery of the work.

**1) Information, advice and support**



Supporting unpaid  
carers during corona'

- HSCP
  - Ongoing Adult Carer Support Plans
    - These have still being undertaken by Social Work staff during the Covid period using remote means (74 completed since 23<sup>rd</sup> March)
  - Information
    - The HSCP has used its communication channels and those of partners (NHS, SAC, VASA, Carers Centre) to disseminate key information for carers
    - Social media has been a particularly useful mechanism to provide information to a greater number of carers
  - Verifying letter
    - The HSCP worked with the Carers Centre to develop a letter of 'verification' for carers for use in different contexts
- Carers Centre
  - The Carers Centre is maintaining supports for Carers on their database (around 800) through phone and on-line mechanisms.
  - *Link to SA Carers Centre Case Study* - [https://www.alliance-scotland.org.uk/blog/case\\_studies/south-ayrshire-carers-centre-continues-to-support-during-covid-19/#expanded](https://www.alliance-scotland.org.uk/blog/case_studies/south-ayrshire-carers-centre-continues-to-support-during-covid-19/#expanded)
- Other services/links
  - Other services and organisations have continued wherever possible, to offer support to carers albeit through remote means, for example, SADSA, Ayrshire Hospice. Alzheimer Scotland, Crossroads
- Carers week
  - Carers Week (8-14 June) had the theme of Making Carers Visible
  - South Ayrshire Carers Centre ran a range of virtual support and information sessions for Carers

- NHS and South Ayrshire Council Communications both highlighted carers and carer supports available during the week
- There was also significant social media HSCP coverage

## **2) Access to PPE**

- The HSCP worked with VASA, the Carers Centre and others to ensure appropriate access to PPE for Carers

## **3) Carers and Shielding**

- The HSCP in its linked work on Shielding with South Ayrshire Council staff (eg on the Helpline) ensured good linkages to supports for carers so that those self-identifying in phone calls could be directed appropriately

## **4) Funding**

- The HSCP and Carers Centre have worked to ensure access to additional funding from Scottish Government aimed at supporting carers

## **5) Ayrshire-wide Pharmacy Leaflet**

- The HSCP is working with colleagues in Community Pharmacy, Acute Care physicians, East and North Partnerships and all 3 Ayrshire Carers Centres together with NHS Communications to develop a simple leaflet for those not identifying as Carers to be used within the Community Pharmacy context. The intention is to link carers to support and information through the Carers Centres

## **6) National links:**

- Scottish Government leads for Carers have convened monthly meetings for HSCP Carers representatives to ensure good information flows to and from Government regarding general supports, as well as key funding for Carers and for organisations supporting Carers

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### **For information**

During the early days of Covid an event was cancelled that was to report on the pilot work at Ayr and Crosshouse Hospitals to support Carers within the Discharge process:

Watch this video to see how NHS Ayrshire & Arran have worked with the three health and social care partnerships and the carers support centres to better involve carers in patient discharge from our hospitals.

<https://vimeo.com/348367751/b800d48140>