



PERTH & KINROSS INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

26 June 2019

PROGRESS MADE BY THE CARERS PROGRAMME BOARD IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CARERS (SCOTLAND) ACT 2016

**Report by Diane Fraser, Head of Adult Social Work and Social Care
(Report No. G/19/116)**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report presents information about progress in the implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 as part of the work which is now being undertaken by the Carers' Programme Board.

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board (IJB):

- Notes the progress made in implementing the Carer's (Scotland) Act 2016 outlined at section 2 of the report.
- Direct Perth & Kinross Council to make the necessary arrangements to continue to implement the Carer (Scotland) Act 2016 with particular regard to commissioning, community engagement and statutory services.
- Direct NHS Tayside to make the necessary arrangements to continue to implement the Carer (Scotland) Act 2016 with particular regard to activities surrounding hospital discharge planning, bereavement and Primary Care.

2. SITUATION / BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 (the Act) makes provisions for unpaid carers of all ages to ensure that carers are better supported. It seeks to ensure that they are sustained in their caring role, their health and wellbeing is improved or maintained and that they have a life alongside caring. Arrangements for young carers aim to ensure that they should be a child first and foremost. The Act was implemented in April 2018.

2.2 The Act places certain duties on Local Authorities and Health Boards to improve the support available to unpaid carers. In particular these include:

- To provide advice and information to carers about the services and supports that are available to them;
- Publication of local eligibility criteria (Appendix 1), to ensure fairness and consistency;
- To develop and make available Adult Carers Support Plans which are agreed with individual carers, identifying their outcomes and the support which is to be provided to enable them to meet those outcomes;
- To develop and make available Young Carers Statements which are agreed with the young carers identifying the young carer's outcomes, individual needs and the support which is to be provided to meet those outcomes;
- To publish a Short Breaks Services Statement (Appendix 2) providing information about the short breaks services available in the area;
- Where the carer meets the threshold of the eligibility criteria, to offer support to carers, based on their outcomes and to waive charges for that support;
- When the person who is cared for is admitted to hospital there is now a duty to involve the carer in planning for their discharge, where possible, ensuring that both the cared for person and the carer are properly supported on their return home;
- To enable carers to be involved in the planning of services in the area;
- To prepare a local Carers Strategy, involving carers of all ages, in the process.

2.3 Significant progress towards implementation of the Act as at April 2019 to improve outcomes for carers is detailed below:

Duties under the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016	Timeline	Progress Towards Implementation by Perth & Kinross Integration Joint Board
Local Eligibility Criteria	Completed January 2018	The Adult Carer Eligibility Criteria Framework was agreed by the IJB on 26 January 2018, following consultation with local adult carers. The Eligibility Criteria Framework for Young Carers was agreed by Lifelong Learning Committee. These documents are available on the pkc.gov.uk website.
Short Breaks Services Statement	Complete at December 2018	Following consultation with local carers, we developed our Short Breaks Services Statement, which was published online for both PKC and PKAVS websites. A one-page easy-read summary document has also been prepared in response to feedback. The statement is under six month review to ensure accuracy and relevance.

Adult Carer Support Plans	Ongoing from April 2018	<p>Adult Carer Support Plans were established in line with the requirements of the legislation. The plans form the basis of a conversation between the carer and a care worker and enable the impact of caring on the health and wellbeing of the carer to be articulated. Plans also identify the best way of reducing any negative impact, the carers outcomes which are agreed and supports put in place to meet those outcomes.</p> <p>From implementation of the Act on 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, 912 Adult Carer Support Plans were prepared across Adult Social Work/Social Care and services commissioned from PKAVS.</p>
Waiving of Charges	Ongoing from April 2018	<p>In accordance with the Waiving of Charges Regulations, the costs of care to support a carer, where that support is identified in an Adult Carers Support Plan, are waived.</p> <p>From June 2018 to March 2019, a short-life working group was established to ensure the consistency of the application of the regulations. Having received guidance from Scottish Government, decisions are now delegated to localities. Future monitoring to ensure compliance is planned.</p>
Local Carers Strategy	To be presented for approval at a future meeting of the IJB	<p>The local Carer Strategy is being developed to articulate the direction, activity and outcomes for our carers over the next 3 years. This document is informed by the consultation we carried out with the participation and involvement of local carers.</p>

2.4 Finance

P&K HSCP net investment of £56,000, together with Scottish Government investment of £535,000 has enabled commissioning of a range of services from PKAVS and other voluntary sector providers, including information and advice services. Those carers, whose caring role impacts on them most, have been able to access help and support to enable them to have a life alongside caring and to ensure that charges for support to those carers can be waived. Total expenditure for the first year of implementation of the Act was £481,600 resulting in an underspend of £109,400 partly due to slippage on staffing. However, all are now currently in place to work with carers to help identify what supports are needed to enable them to sustain their caring role, as required.

2.5 Key Areas of Investment

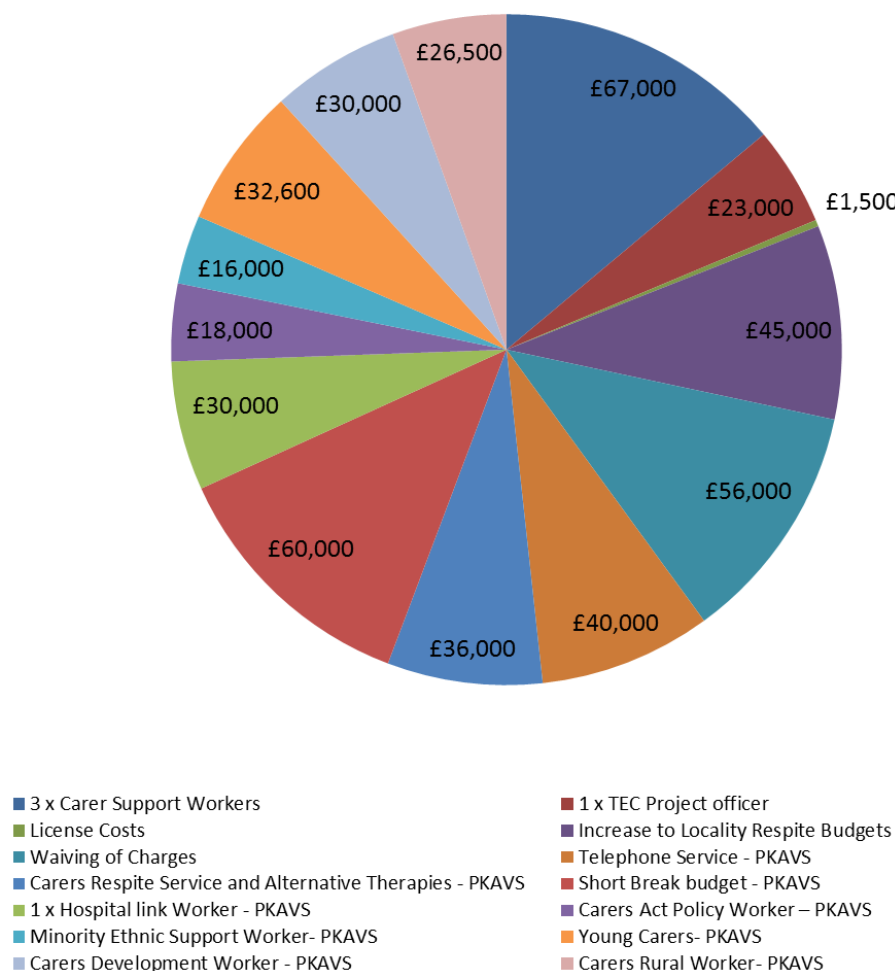
Investment into capacity was key to the success of the implementation of the Act, ensuring that the support was in place to meet the needs of carers in the area. To this end we commissioned from PKAVS, including the establishment of a Carers Support Telephone Service, and three new Carer Support Workers were recruited. The Carer Support Workers are now each dedicated to work with carers in localities, serving the needs of the local population. Training was carried out in advance of the implementation of the Act raising awareness amongst social care, health and commissioned voluntary sector professionals about the duties and powers the Act introduced.

We also invested in providing support through voucher schemes to enable carers to take breaks from their caring role and waiving the charges. This means that where the eligibility criteria are met for high or very high impact on the health and wellbeing of the carer, and the carer is willing and able to continue caring, there are no charges for the care that is provided to replace the care they give.

Investment in ensuring carers were able to find the support that best met their needs is shown in Diagram 1:

Diagram 1

Investment in Carers Programme 2018-19



2.6 **Audit**

In February and March 2019, Perth & Kinross Council's Internal Audit Department undertook an audit of the implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016. The audit reviewed the arrangements which were put in place to meet the legislative requirements in advance of the implementation of the Act, and the subsequent activity. The report concluded that there were strong internal controls in place to ensure the implementation of the Act, with no further action needed. The Audit report will be presented to Audit & Performance Committee on 18 June 2019.

2.7 **Risk**

Risk Management processes have identified that there may be insufficient financial resources to provide adequate support for carers in Perth & Kinross. 13,308 people in Perth & Kinross (9%) identified themselves as carers in the National Census in 2011. Based on population growth estimates, the General Registrar of Scotland projects this to be 14,106 in 2019 and 14,373 in 2022. We are working to ensure that the reported number of carers who are supported is accurate and reliable, this is challenging as the definition of carers has changed as a consequence of the legislation. Using current figures for those registered at PKAVS and who have been supported by PKC following the implementation of the Act, we estimate that there are approximately 2100 carers who are supported. This identifies that approximately 85% of carers providing unpaid care may be missing out on preventative support, information and advice that is available.

Furthermore, external care providers are often unable to recruit staff to meet the current levels of demand; this will mostly affect carers whose caring role has either a high or very high impact. Carers have told us that service providers may not be prepared to travel to provide support to outlying areas, which will impact on the ability of the carer to sustain their caring role. Therefore where we currently have the financial resources to provide care some of the market does not meet that need. This may be exacerbated with increased uptake of the support entitlement. We will continue to develop markets and resources in localities as part of the implementation of the revised Strategic Commissioning Plan.

2.8 **Community Engagement**

We have engaged and consulted with our stakeholders throughout the implementation of the Act, in particular as part of our research in preparation for the Eligibility Criteria, our Short Breaks Services Statement and the Carers Strategy 2019-22. Responses to the Strategy consultation revealed that the level of awareness of the resources that are available to carers, is a cause for concern. This identified that our carers do not know where to find information about the resources and help that is available for them. Further promotion around the support that is available for carers in communities is required, and a communications and participation plan has been developed and will be kept under continual review.

3. PROPOSALS

The Integration Joint Board is asked to note the challenges and progress of the Carers Programme Board in implementing the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016.

4. CONCLUSION

This report presents the work undertaken to date by the Carers Programme Board to implement the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016, supporting unpaid young and adult carers across Perth & Kinross, to sustain them in their caring role and have a life alongside caring.

Author(s)

Name	Designation	Contact Details
Diane Fraser	Head of Adult Social Work and Social Care	DFraser@pkc.gov.uk

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report.

1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
HSCP Strategic Commissioning Plan	Yes
Transformation Programme	No
Resource Implications	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	Yes
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	No
Risk	Yes
Other assessments (enter here from para 3.3)	No
Consultation	
External	Yes
Internal	Yes
Legal & Governance	
Legal	Yes
Clinical/Care/Professional Governance	No
Corporate Governance	No
Directions	Yes
Communication	
Communications Plan	Yes

1. Strategic Implications

1.1 Strategic Commissioning Plan

This report and its proposals relate to the achievement of the following Perth and Kinross Strategic Commissioning Plan themes:

- 1 prevention and early intervention,
- 2 person centred health, care and support
- 3 work together with communities
- 4 inequality, inequity and healthy living
- 5 best use of facilities, people and resources

2. Resource Implications

2.1 Financial

Within budgeted resource as detailed in 2.4.

2.2 Workforce

Within budgeted resources.

3. Assessments

3.1 Equalities & Fairness Impact Assessment

Under the Equality Act 2010, PKC and NHS Tayside is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the HSCP to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

EFIA or IAT screenings have been carried out for the Eligibility Criteria and the forthcoming Carers Strategy. The EFIA for the Strategy will be presented at the June Board meeting.

3.2 Risks

As set out in Section 2.7

3.3 Other assessments

Not relevant

4. Consultation – Patient/Service User first priority

4.1 External

As detailed within the report.

4.2 Internal

As detailed within the report

4.3 Impact of Recommendation

The implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 is considered to have had a positive impact on service users, carers and the third sector. The implementation of the Act has been subject to ongoing engagement throughout, in accordance with the legislation and good practice, as described in Section 2.8.

5. Legal and Governance

5.1 This report provides an update on progress towards implementing statutory duties under the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016.

5.2 The Carers Programme Board has delegated responsibility for the implementation of the Act, to ensure the adequacy and monitoring of the arrangements for Carers and the management of risks.

6. Directions

Perth & Kinross Council is directed to make the necessary arrangements to continue to implement the Carer (Scotland) Act 2016 with particular regard to commissioning, community engagement and statutory services.

NHS Tayside is directed to make the necessary arrangements to continue to implement the Carer (Scotland) Act 2016 with particular regard to activities surrounding hospital discharge planning, bereavement and Primary Care.

7. Communication

- 7.1 A Communication Plan is currently being developed to support the Carers' Strategy 2019 – 2022.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS/REFERENCES

- 8.1 Not relevant.

9. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Eligibility Criteria

Appendix 2 – Short Breaks Services Statement

Appendix 3 – Directions for Perth and Kinross Council

Appendix 4 – Directions for NHS Tayside