

REPORT TO EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE – 21 MARCH 2019

ABERDEENSHIRE YOUNG CARER STRATEGY 2018 – 2020: UPDATE

1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Note the progress of the implementation of the Aberdeenshire Young Carer Strategy.**
- 1.2 Note the increase in the overall number of young carers receiving support in Aberdeenshire.**

2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1 The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 came into force on 1 April, 2018, and sits within the wider context of the integration of health and social care.
- 2.2 The development of a local carer strategy was a requirement of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016, and Education and Children's Services collaborated with the Health and Social Care Partnership to provide strategies for both adult carers and young carers across Aberdeenshire. The Aberdeenshire Young Carer Strategy was published on 1 April, 2018. [Aberdeenshire Young Carer Strategy](#).
- 2.3 The implementation of the Young Carer Strategy has enabled Aberdeenshire to fulfil a number of statutory duties and/or responsibilities required by the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016, including the provision of information for young carers, raising awareness of young carers and through the provision of a Young Carers Statement to all young carers detailing any need for additional support in helping to ensure their wellbeing. This support includes the provision of an individual budget via Self Directed Support where a young carer meets eligibility criteria.
- 2.4 Aberdeenshire Young Carers Service now supports 208 young carers, having received 60 new referrals since 1 April, 2018. The number of young carers identified via SEEMiS has reduced slightly since December, 2017, by 7 young carers. Work will be undertaken in Aberdeenshire schools to raise awareness of young carers and the support that may be available.
- 2.5 In 2018/19, Children's Services received £260,000 from Scottish Government to support the implementation of the Act, with a further additional £136,000 allocated in 2019/20.
- 2.6 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report. They are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

3 Scheme of Governance

- 3.1 The Committee is able to consider this matter under Section E 2.1g, as it relates to the Council's functions in relation to children and young people under the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016, insofar as it relates to young carers.

4 Implications and Risk

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment was carried out in relation to the strategy as part of the development of the proposals set out above. Negative impacts have not been identified. Indeed, positive impacts have been noted in respect of two protected groups, namely young people and disability.

An equality impact assessment is not required for the purposes of this update report.

- 4.2 There are staffing and financial implications. The Carer's Bill Financial Memorandum set out the overall estimated costs of implementing the Act, representing significant investment in carers by the Scottish Government from 2018 for 5 years, rising from £19m in year 1 to nearly £90m by year 5. In this financial year, Aberdeenshire's share of the national funding is £782,000 and this total amount is for implementation of the requirements in legislation for both adult and young carers. The joint Health and Social Care Partnership and Education and Children's Services Leadership Team agrees the following commitments from this total in relation to young carers:

- Contribution to the cost of a Strategic Development Officer for a fixed-term period to 30 September, 2019;
- Contribution to the cost of an information officer for a fixed-term period to 30 September, 2019;
- Contribution to the cost of a Carer Practitioner post as of 1 April, 2018, to be placed within Education and Children's Services;
- Additional capacity of one member of staff for Quarriers, the commissioned carers' support service, to enable them to respond to the anticipated increase in demand for completion of young carer statements and support to young carers.

- 4.3 Nationally, a Carers Act finance group will have responsibility for managing the position if demand for an adult carer support plan and young carer statement is much higher or lower than predicted. The Scottish Government has introduced a new suite of data to be collected through the Partnership and Education and Children's Services that will be used to demonstrate the financial impact of the new Act. Locally, the joint Health and Social Care Partnership and Education and Children's Services management will review how the legislation is being implemented on a regular basis.

- 4.4 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:

- ACORP001 – Budget pressures;
- ACORP002 – Changes in Government legislation and policy;
- ACOPR005 – Working with other organisations; and
- ACORP008 – Data Protection and Cyber Security.

[Corporate Risk Register](#)

The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level:

- BSSR001 – Balancing the books;
- ECSSR003 – Embedding GIRFEC; and
- ECSSR004 – Support inclusive, vibrant and healthy communities.

[Directorate Risk Register](#)

These risks will be mitigated against through the implementation of the Strategy Action Plan and the additional funding provided by Scottish Government for carers.

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Report prepared by Leigh Jolly, Interim Head of Children's Services
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