

East Lothian Health & Social Care Partnership



REPORT TO: Integrated Joint Board

MEETING DATE: 22 March 2018

BY: Group Service Manager, Rehabilitation and Access

SUBJECT: Update on progress to date on the Draft East Lothian Carers Strategy in line with the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report outlines the progress made to date on the development of the East Lothian Carers Strategy in line with the legislative requirements of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 that will commence on 1st April 2018.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Integrated Joint Board is asked to:
- Note the content of this report with regards to the context and background to the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 and the requirement to develop and publish a local Carers Strategy by 1st April 2018.
 - Note this report will be proposed to be shared with Cabinet on 13th March 2018.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Carers (Scotland) Act was passed by the Scottish Parliament in February 2016. The Act will commence on 1st April 2018. The Act promises to “promote, defend and extend the rights of adult and young (unpaid) carers across Scotland” and to further improve their individual outcomes in a more consistent manner. The legislation has implications for both Adult Services and Children’s Services.
- 3.2 The Act details a range of powers and duties for local authorities, health boards and the Health and Social Care Partnership and, along with other

legislation including the Social Care (Self Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013, Health and Social Care Standards: My support, my life published in June 2017 and requires action to be taken to support all unpaid carers, and to be taken into account when planning health and social care services.

3.3 The Act outlines the following requirements:

- Develop Adult Carer Support Plans and Young Carer Statements
- Develop and publicise local Eligibility Criteria by 30th Sep 2017 and finalise and publish this by 1st April 2018
- Involve carers, carer bodies and relevant representatives in the development of the local Eligibility Criteria.
- Prepare a local carers strategy by 1st April 2018
- Establish and maintain an information and advice service for carers
- Prepare and publish a short breaks statement

3.4 Work behind the implementation of the Act and the development of the local Carers Strategy has been led by the Carers' Strategic Group involving senior officers from ELHSCP and East Lothian Council and acts as the project team with an overview of the progress towards the delivery of the Carers' Strategy for East Lothian.

3.5 The Carers' Strategic Group has also received support from third sector organisations such as Carers of East Lothian, East Lothian Young Carers, The Bridges Project as well as carer representatives and other relevant organisations such as the DWP, Dementia Friendly East Lothian and PASDA in providing support in gathering information and in the direction of the strategy.

4 DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRATEGY

4.1 The Carers' Act places a duty on the relevant body to produce and publish a local Carers Strategy in time for the 1st April 2018. The strategy is required to outline the following as specified in the Carers Act (Scotland) 2016:

- Local plans to identify carers
- Information about care they provide
- An assessment of the demand for support to carers
- Support available to carers from authority and health board or other persons

- An assessment of demand not being met
- Local plans to support carers
- Local plans for helping carers put arrangements in place for provision of care to cared for person in emergencies
- An assessment of how plans will reduce impact of caring
- Outline timescales for preparing Adult Carer Support Plans and Young Persons Statements
- Outline the needs and circumstances of young carers

A link to the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 can be found here:

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00523245.pdf>

- 4.2 Final guidance on the development of the strategy has been published by the Scottish Government from this week.
- 4.3 Work completed to date on the strategy has included an analysis of the local demographics of carers within East Lothian and a summary of the research completed in relation to the impact of caring on carer's health and wellbeing, finances and employment.
- 4.4 The strategy intends to outline our processes currently in place for identifying carers and will outline how we aim to improve carer identification in the future through improved working with our third sector partners such as Carers of East Lothian, East Lothian Young Carers and The Bridges Project.
- 4.5 Work has also been completed in outlining services in East Lothian that currently provide Information and Advice to carers although further work needs to be done on this in relation to services provided by the NHS.
- 4.6 As the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 specifies that both the development of the Eligibility Criteria and the draft Strategy must be done in consultation with carers, carers bodies and relevant representatives, the strategy will outline the work done to date in relation to this. Further information on consultation completed so far can be found in the attached report to the IJB: Proposal for the Implementation of Eligibility Criteria for Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 within East Lothian and includes information on the East Lothian Carers Strategy "Breakfast" event held in June 2017 and the subsequent online consultation which included Survey Monkey questionnaires and the opportunity to respond through the Consultation Hub. Further consultation with young carers is still ongoing.
- 4.7 The strategy will end by outlining 8 outcomes that the Partnership wish to achieve. These are currently in draft although include:

- Adult, Young Adult and Young Carers are identified and can access support
- Carers are well informed and have access to tailored and age appropriate information and advice throughout their caring journey.
- Carers are supported to maintain their own physical, emotional and mental wellbeing
- Breaks from caring are timely and regularly available
- Carers can achieve a balance between caring and other aspects of their lives
- Young carers are supported to have a life outside their caring role
- Carers and young carers are respected by professionals as partners in care and are appropriately included in the planning and delivery of both the care and support for the people they care for and services locally.
- Local communities are supported to be carer friendly

5 REVIEW OF THE EAST LoTHIAN CARERS STRATEGY

- 5.1 Although a final draft of our local strategy must be published by the 1st April 2018 in order to meet the requirements of the Act, the strategy will not come into law until the publication of the reviewed Strategic Plan in 2019. Therefore this gives us the opportunity to pilot and review the proposed strategy and its associated processes further and over the course of 2018 to develop an in-depth Action Plan which will outline the mechanisms that will be used in order to meet the outcomes listed above.

6 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policies currently in use by the East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership will be required to be reviewed in order to ensure that these meet the desired outcomes outlined in the final East Lothian Carers Strategy.

7 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment is in progress and needs to be finalised.

8 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Financial - Future financial implications are anticipated with regard to impact of identifying Carers within East Lothian and as the Carers Strategy is developed and implemented. Work is ongoing to scope and model the financial plan for implementation.

8.2 Personnel – There will be a need to provide training for staff across all relevant partners, including carers themselves and to raise awareness of the Carers Strategy and its implications within East Lothian.

8.3 Other - None

9 APPENDICIES

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