

SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11TH MARCH 2021

UNPAID CARERS IN CARMARTHENSHIRE- STRATEGIC , LOCAL AND COVID RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

To consider and comment on the following issues:

That the report which details the work of the West Wales Regional Carers Development Group , together with local Carmarthenshire initiatives, including Covid related developments for unpaid carers is considered and accepted.

Reasons:

To provide Scrutiny Committee with a position statement regarding the work undertaken in 2020/21 in relation to unpaid carers by both the Regional West Wales Carers Development Group and the Carmarthenshire Strategic Partnership Board for Carers.

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: **NO**

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: -

Cllr. Jane Tremlett (Social Care & Health Portfolio Holder)

Directorate Communities Jake Morgan Report Author Avril Bracey Alex Williams Jonathan Morgan Chris Harrison	Designations: Director of Community Services Head of Adult Social Care Head of Integrated Services Head of Homes and Safer Communities Head of Strategic Commissioning	Tel Nos./ E Mail Addresses: 01267 242485 Chris.harrison@pembrokeshire.gov.uk
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
11TH MARCH 2021

**UNPAID CARERS IN CARMARTHENSHIRE-
STRATEGIC , LOCAL AND COVID RELATED
DEVELOPMENTS**

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT

This document provides an overview of the work that has been progressed by both the Regional West Wales Carers Development Group (WWCDG) and by the Carmarthenshire Strategic Partnership Board for Carers during 2020/21. It details a range of initiatives in place to support unpaid carers, including Covid related services.

During 2020 the WWCDG, in consultation with carers published a West Wales Carers Strategy, which was structured around four key priorities:

- Improve the early identification and self-identification of Carers, including Young Carers and Young Adult Carers
- Ensure a range of services is available to support the wellbeing of carers of all ages, in their life alongside caring
- Support carers to access and maintain education, training and employment opportunities
- Support carers to become digitally included

Work is now being undertaken by the WWCDG member to refresh their action plan to support the strategic priorities identified.

During the Covid pandemic the role and importance of unpaid carers has become more evident. The West Wales Carers Development Group have worked together to ensure carers continue to be supported with information, advice and support. Collaborative working across all partners and close working relationships with our commissioned service providers has enabled us to respond to the needs of carers including access to PPE & testing. During the first wave of the pandemic welfare calls to carers registered with the carer's information service were prioritised. Many carers took the decision to shield or to isolate themselves to protect those whom they carers for.

We recognise the impact that Covid has had on carers, and how it has been difficult at times to offer the usual menu of support. We have therefore had to adapt the offer so that it can be delivered during Covid.

The attached report details a range of carer support services and service initiatives which are in place and or are being developed to support carers in their caring role.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	Yes
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CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: Chris Harrison

Head of Strategic Commissioning

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	YES	YES	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE

2. Legal

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 provides the statutory framework for improving the well-being outcomes of adults and children who need care and support and carers who need support. It has a particular focus on voice and control so people have control over their own care and support and can make decisions about it as an equal partner.

3. Finance

Carmarthenshire is committed to support and values the contribution that unpaid carers make. Collaborative working with partner organisations including the voluntary sector, community groups and health will ensure we maximise use of available resources.

It is acknowledged that budgetary pressures will be a key challenge, which will be compounded by the impact of Covid. However resources such as the Integrated Care Fund, and Transformation Fund are supporting the delivery of carer's services.

4. ICT:

Digital has been highlighted as a key priority within the regional strategy and digital solutions have been an important part of ensuring continued support to unpaid carers during the covid pandemic. It will continue to play an important role in shaping how and what we provide going forward.

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: Chris Harrison

Head of Strategic Joint Commissioning

- 1. Local Member(s)- N/A**
- 2. Community / Town Council – N/A**
- 3. Relevant Partners – yes**
- 4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations –N/A**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED:**

YES

Cllr J. Tremlett, Executive Board Member for Social Care & Health is a member of the Carmarthenshire Strategic Partnership Board for Carers.

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

There are none