

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE - 24TH NOVEMBER 2008

REPORT ON: DUNDEE CARERS STRATEGY 2008-2011 - ACTION PLAN

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

REPORT NO: 575 - 2008

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present to committee members an action plan to implement the Dundee Carers Strategy 2008-2011.
- 1.2 The action plan and the Dundee Carers Strategy 2008-2011 have been passed to the Group Leaders and Depute Lord Provost Ian Borthwick.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- 2.1 Approves the action plan; and
- 2.2 Instructs the Director of Social Work to lead on the implementation of the actions.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 All costs will be met within existing budgets.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

- 4.1 The Dundee Carers Strategy 2008-2011 was approved by this committee on 24th September 2007 (report 481-2007). The Director of Social Work was instructed to develop an action plan to meet the objectives outlined in the strategy.
- 4.2 Carers play a vital and central role in the provision of care, making an enormous contribution to supporting people in the community. Carers are the largest group of care providers and, therefore, the largest component of the local care provision. Carers of all ages make an enormous contribution to caring for vulnerable people in Dundee.
- 4.3 Supporting carers is a key priority for the Scottish Government as described in the Strategy for Carers in Scotland (1999) and many subsequent reports. Supporting carers locally in Dundee is a continuing priority for the Social Work Department, NHS Tayside and the Princess Royal Trust Centre. The Dundee Carers' Strategy was developed within the context of national developments and legislation affecting carers.
- 4.4 The 2001 Census identified that in Dundee there are almost 14,000 unpaid carers - almost 10% of the total population of Dundee. Given that many people do not recognise themselves as carers this figure is likely to be higher - for example the Young Carers Project has supported 931 young carers since 2000. Research by Carers UK estimates a 60% increase in the number of carers by 2037. Most carers provide care for between 1 and 19 hours each week, but there are a significant number of carers providing over 50 hours of care each week.

4.5 For carers in Dundee to be adequately supported and informed they need to be part of a positive and active partnership where they are treated as equal partners. Carers should be consulted and involved in planning and developing services. The Dundee Carers' Strategy 2008-2011 and action plan were produced in partnership with carers, the voluntary sector, Dundee City Council Social Work Department, NHS Tayside, Princess Royal Trust Carers Centre and other key stakeholders.

4.6 There is a range of services and supports to support carers, such as respite, training and information. The strategy and action plan will consolidate and build on the good work already in place to ensure that carers are recognised, informed, involved and supported in their caring role. The strategy describes several priority areas that require action for the aim to be realised. These are:

- Information
- Assessment
- Carers Support Groups
- Respite & Short Breaks
- Training, Education & Employment
- Health and Wellbeing
- Financial Support
- Advocacy
- Consultation and Involvement

In the strategy we set out our objectives for meeting the priorities. In addition to these priority areas, we aim to improve:

- Access to services;
- The range of services; and,
- The balance between formal and informal caring.

4.7 The action plan sets out how the key objectives will be achieved, and includes details of timescales, and achievements to date.

4.8 A multi-agency action planning group meets every six weeks to review progress and ensure that actions are being completed. A representative from the Dundee Carers Partnership forum will be involved once this is established.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty and Equality Impact Assessment. There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Head of Finance have been consulted in preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None