

**REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK & HEALTH COMMITTEE - 24 SEPTEMBER 2007**

**REPORT ON: DUNDEE CARERS STRATEGY**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK**

**REPORT NO: 481 - 2007**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval of committee members to introduce a strategy for carers in Dundee, a copy of this report is available for inspection in the Members' Lounge.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Social Work & Health Committee:-

- 2.1 Approves the adoption of the strategy: and
- 2.2 Instructs the Director of Social Work to develop an action plan that demonstrates our commissioning intentions to meet the objectives outlined in the strategy.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 All costs will be met within existing budgets.

## **4.0 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Sustainability
- 4.1.1 The report will have a positive impact on ensuring all sections of the community are empowered in decision making and that health is protected.
- 4.2 Strategic Environmental assessment
- 4.2.1 None
- 4.3 Anti-poverty
- 4.3.1 An outcome of the implementation of the recommendations of the strategy should be to ensure that the needs of carers are met equitably throughout Tayside.

## **5.0 MAIN TEXT**

- 5.1 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 workforce. Carers of all ages make an enormous contribution to caring for vulnerable people in Dundee.
- 5.2 Supporting carers is a key priority for the Scottish Executive, 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 is developed within the context of national developments and legislation affecting carers.

- 5.3 Several pieces of legislation have been introduced which give carers legal rights and which place duties upon statutory agencies to support carers. Key pieces of legislation are:

- Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995
- Children (Scotland) Act 1995
- Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 2002
- Working Families Act 2006
- Employment Act 2002
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

In addition, several policy documents have been published to provide information and guidance. These include:

- Caring About Carers - A National Strategy for Carers (1999)
- Strategy for Carers in Scotland (1999)
- Partnership for Care (2003)
- Changing Lives: 21st Century Social Work Review (2006)
- Care 21 Report: The Future of Unpaid Care in Scotland (2006)
- NHS Tayside - Carer Information Strategy (2007)
- Delivering for Health (2005)
- Building a Health Service Fit for the Future (Kerr Report) (2005)

- 5.4 The Strategy for Carers in Scotland (1999) resulted in investment in services to support carers and new legislation. The publication of the Care 21 Report on The Future of Unpaid Care in Scotland (2005) created an agenda for change in the way that carers are recognised and supported. It set out 22 recommendations arising from research on the issues faced by unpaid carers in Scotland.

- 5.5 A carer is defined in the Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995 as a person who provides a "*substantial amount of care on a regular basis*". Carers of all ages can look after family, partners or friends in need of any help because they are ill, frail or have a disability. This includes people with a physical or learning disability, HIV/AIDS, mental health issues and drug and alcohol dependency.

- 5.6 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.

- 5.7 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 has been 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.

- 5.8 In developing this strategy, the following outcomes were agreed with local carers:

- recognition & involvement as equal partners;
- support in their caring role;
- increased social inclusion; and
- improved health and wellbeing.

- 5.9 There is a range of services and supports to support carers, such as respite, training and information. This strategy 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

5.10 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.

## **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 this report.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None

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Date: 7 September 2007