

**Report to:** Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017

**Lead Member/Officer:** Lead Member for Wellbeing & Independence/  
Head of Community Support Services

**Report Author:** Commissioning Officer for Carers Services

**Title:** Progress Report - Denbighshire Carers Strategy 2016–19

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## **1. What is the report about?**

- 1.1 The report provides members with an update on the implementation of the Denbighshire Carers Strategy which was received for information by Scrutiny in January 2017. The Strategy was developed during 2016 by the multi-agency Denbighshire Carers Strategy Group, and sets out how the Group will work together to further develop support to Carers in Denbighshire in a way that addresses the local needs of Carers, within the context of new legislation and demographic changes. A link to the Strategy document appears at the end of the report.
- 1.2 The report also highlights other significant developments since the last progress report to Scrutiny in June 2017 that need to be considered alongside the implementation of the Strategy.

## **2. What is the reason for making this report?**

To provide information regarding progress on the development of the Strategy. A Progress Report was provided to Partnerships Scrutiny on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017. A further progress report was requested for December 2017.

## **3. What are the Recommendations?**

That scrutiny members:

- 3.1 consider the report and provide comments as appropriate in relation to how partners in Denbighshire are continuing to work together to further develop support to Carers in Denbighshire, within the context of increasing demand, new legislation and demographic changes.
- 3.2 continue to support and promote the achievements of the Strategy in order for Denbighshire Community Support Service (CSS) to meet its statutory obligations in regard to Carers, in partnership with statutory and third sector partners; and.
- 3.3 confirm that they have read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment (see link below) as part of their consideration.

## **4. Report details**

- 4.1 The Strategy is under-pinned by new legislation, specifically the Social Services & Well Being (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA) and the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- 4.2 The SSWBA requires a change in culture that provides a greater focus on promoting resilience, independence, self-care and community support. It recognises that Carers themselves have a preventative role, and gives them equivalent rights to other citizens in order to support and maintain this role in respect of the care and support of others. In progressing the requirements of the SSWBA, it has been important to include the support needs of Carers in the development

of Denbighshire's new asset based approach to assessing and meeting needs, as opposed to doing this in isolation.

- 4.3 Progress against the Strategy is documented in a Strategy Action Plan [Appendix 1] which captures actions for strategic and third sector partners to develop support for Carers in Denbighshire, and ensure compliance with new statutory legislation.
- 4.4 The Strategy Action Plan is set out against the SSWBA's outcomes for citizens, and places a focus on compliance with the Act. It is also mapped against Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board's (BCUHB) Key Priorities for the Central region. The Action Plan has been updated (see Appendix 1), however, the following highlights some of the broader development areas:
  - 4.4.1 Regional Developments - Carers are a priority group for the North Wales Regional Partnership Board. Under the auspices of the Regional Collaboration Team, work has been carried out in recent months to map carers' services in North Wales. This has included meeting with and listening to carers' stories across the region. A draft report containing initial findings has now been compiled, and the findings have been submitted to the North Wales Carers Strategic Group. A workshop for partners will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> December in order to ensure agreement amongst partners on the way forward for the design and delivery of carers services in North Wales, with a strong focus on what is currently working well, and how partners can work better together to contribute to keeping carers healthy.
  - 4.4.2 NEWCIS Lottery Project - The provision of additional services for Carers in Denbighshire and Flintshire over the next three years is well underway. These services include counselling, advocacy and welfare rights advice. In addition respite breaks for Carers are being provided at Llys Awelon Extra Care Housing facility, in partnership with Denbighshire County Council and Grŵp Cynefin. Discussions are also underway to develop similar respite breaks at Nant y Môr, Prestatyn.
  - 4.4.3 Denbighshire 'Talking Points' continue to develop. Good partnership working exists between Community Navigators, Single Point of Access and third sector organisations such as NEWCIS and Alzheimer's Society to provide information and support for Carers. In addition, NEWCIS are now providing volunteers to support Talking Points across the county. Many of these volunteers are former Carers who want to give of their time to support other Carers.
  - 4.4.4 Young Carers – As agreed by Partnerships Scrutiny on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, the provision of Leisure Cards for young Carers has been explored in partnership between Denbighshire Leisure Services, Children's Services and WCD Young Carers. This has been agreed in principle and partners are looking at the variety of options available to young Carers.

#### 4.5 Additional Developments:

##### 4.5.1 Denbighshire Corporate Plan 2017-22.

As part of the Council's priority to build 'Resilient Communities', the Council states that it will work with people and communities to build independence and resilience. This includes ensuring that all Carers in Denbighshire are well supported. This focus on Carers in Denbighshire is welcomed, and will provide an opportunity to further develop Denbighshire's approach to supporting Carers under the Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014, with the full backing of the Council. A Business Plan is currently being drawn up that will set out specific areas for development. These will include referrals from health partners and support for parent Carers. The business plan will also consider how support for Carers can be developed corporately. The development and implementation of the Business Plan will be overseen by the Corporate Programme Board for Resilience.

##### 4.5.2 Carers Respite Grant

At the end of July 2017, Welsh Government informed Denbighshire Local Authority of a grant of £100,012 to fund additional respite opportunities to Carers. The grant must be spent in the current financial year. It was agreed between Heads of Service that 20% of the grant should be allocated to Children's Services to support young Carers and parent Carers. Following consultation with partners, a spend profile was agreed by senior management as below. At present there is no indication whether further funding will be available beyond March 2018. Detailed monitoring is required by Welsh Government of the outcomes of this additional funding.

- *Adult Carers:*
  - Additional residential respite, day services and sitting services
  - Short Breaks voucher scheme for Carers who do not wish to have involvement with statutory services (pilot scheme with NEWCIS).
  - Additional funding for 'Shared Days' service for individuals with moderate to advanced dementia.
  - Recruitment of 'Shared Lives' families to provide respite for Carers of adults with learning disabilities.
- *Children's Services (Young Carers and Parent Carers)*
  - Short breaks for young Carers.
  - Support worker for children with a disability aged 8 – 18 years
  - Additional childcare for children with a disability under 8 years.

#### 4.5.3 Carers Wales 'Track the Act' Briefing 2017 and Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales 'In Support of Carers' 2017.

Denbighshire Community Support Services are currently considering the findings of these reports that were recently published following research and engagement with carers, to measure how local government in Wales are delivering on their new duties to Carers under the Social Services & Well Being (Wales) Act 2014. Whilst there is evidence of good practice across the region in regard to service provision including the provision of Information and Advice, there is some concern that, in transforming services in line with the new Act, Carers may have slipped down the agenda. Local Authorities need to ensure that Carers rights to an assessment and support is well understood. Although the reports do not highlight any areas of concern specific to Denbighshire, the findings have been mapped against current practice in Denbighshire (see Appendix 2). Any actions for Denbighshire will be considered alongside findings from Community Support Services' own quality assurance framework.

#### 5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

The Carers Strategy specifically contributes to the corporate priorities:

- **Connected Communities:** Communities are connected and have access to goods and services locally, online and through good transport links;
- **Resilient Communities:** The Council works with people and communities to build independence and resilience;

Carers make a valuable contribution to our communities in supporting the individuals they care for to remain independent. The continued development of the Strategy will seek to ensure that Carers themselves do not become vulnerable as a result of their caring role, and are supported to remain independent.

#### 6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

Any increase in demand on services will need to be managed within current budgets.

A measure of success of the SSWBA is likely to be a reduction in the number of Carers requiring a more in-depth assessment if they are effectively supported at the onset of their

caring role. It is important that the impact on preventative services such as those provided by the third sector is monitored, and services re-aligned to meet demand.

## **7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?**

The main conclusions of the well-being impact assessment completed in January 2017 (Appendix 3 – please follow the link below) were that the Strategy will have a positive impact across all of the well-being goals, and this is reflected by the sustainable development score. The Strategy is particularly aligned with the SSWBA 2014, and the requirements of the new Act in relation to Carers who now have equal rights to the person they care for. The Strategy seeks to ensure that Denbighshire meets its new legal obligations to Carers, and achieves this by a meaningful partnership approach. This approach, together with Denbighshire's own asset based approach to meeting the requirements of the new Act, will ensure that all Carers will receive information, advice and assistance to help them achieve their own well-being outcomes. This in turn will have a positive impact on those for whom they care, and potentially the wider community. An updated assessment has not been undertaken for the purpose of this progress report.

## **8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

A consultation process has not been carried out for the purpose of this progress report.

## **9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

A Chief Finance Officer Statement is not required for this update report.

## **10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

The achievements of the Strategy rely heavily on partnership working which is overseen by the Carer Strategy Group to ensure progress continues.

## **11. Power to make the Decision**

Scrutiny's powers with respect to this matter are set out in Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and Section 7 of the Council's Constitution

### **Strategy Document:**

<https://moderngov.denbighshire.gov.uk/documents/s22607/CARERS%20STRATEGY%20-%20APP%201%20E.pdf?LLL=0>

### **Well Being Impact Assessment:**

<https://moderngov.denbighshire.gov.uk/documents/s22609/CARERS%20STRATEGY%20-%20APP%203.pdf?LLL=0>