



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

18th JULY 2019

CWM TAF CARERS ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES, IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDERS, COUNCILLOR G HOPKINS AND COUNCILLOR C LEYSHON.

Author: Rhian Webber, Health and Wellbeing Improvement Manager, (Cwm Taf Morgannwg University UHB)

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to approve for submission to Welsh Government the Annual Report for 2018/19 in relation to Carers.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet

- 2.1. Notes the contents of this report and that the Annual report is also being submitted for approval by the Cabinet in Merthyr Tydfil and Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board.
- 2.2 Notes the Annual Report was due in Welsh Government at the end of May 2019. However, in line with previous practice which has been acceptable to Welsh Government, as the timeline of Cabinets in Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Councils and UHB Board meetings did not neatly fit, a draft report will be submitted, with the final version sent to Welsh Government following approval by all three partners.
- 2.3 Approves the Annual Report attached as Appendix 1 for submission to Welsh Government.
- 2.4 Notes that work relating to Carers is being taken forward as part of the Regional Plan for the implementation of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, specifically through implementation of the Cwm Taf Carers Strategy 2016-19 approved by partners in July 2016.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Prior to the implementation of the SSWB Act, UHBs were given a lead role under the Welsh Government's Carers Measure to work with partners including Local Authorities, Third Sector and importantly, Carers themselves. We were required to submit an Annual Report to Welsh Government to provide an overview of the activities undertaken as part of the implementation of the Carers Measure. Although the Carers Measure has been repealed, the requirement for an Annual report has been continued for 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 as part of the conditions of transitional funding from WG in place until March 2020.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 As part of the Regional Work programme of the Cwm Taf Social Services and Well-being Partnership Board, a new Cwm Taf Carers Strategy was developed in 2016 to replace the separate plans of partner organisations. Working with partners across Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil, including Carers themselves, the Cwm Taf Carers Strategy 2016-2019 covers Carers of all ages.
- 4.2 Having reviewed our current services, building on the progress made implementing the Carers Measure from 2012-2015 and taking into account the requirements of the SSWB Act as well as the views expressed during engagement and consultation with Carers and staff, we developed the following Vision:

Carers of all ages in Cwm Taf will be recognised and valued as being fundamental to supportive and resilient families and communities. They will not have to care alone and will be able to access information, advice and support to help meet their needs, empowering them to lead healthy and fulfilled lives, balancing their caring role and their life outside caring.

- 4.3 A Cwm Taf Carers Partnership Group has been established with Member and senior officer representatives from across Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board and the Third Sector. The Carers Partnership Group will monitor the implementation of the Strategy and promote the integration of services for Carers, as required by Part 9 of the SSWB Act.
- 4.4 Throughout 2018/19, Cwm Taf UHB, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council have built upon the success of the previous year and continued to work

collaboratively together and with other partners in improving recognition of Carers and providing appropriate information and support. The Annual Report provides an opportunity to reflect on the progress we have made to date and looks ahead to the challenges and opportunities we will face in 2019/20.

4.5 Key areas of work have included:

- The provision of Carer Aware training (both via e learning and face to face) to further expand the knowledge of both Carers Champions and staff throughout the Cwm Taf region;
- The sharing of best practice at an annual Carers Champion conference held in April 2018 with a focus on Young Carers and Young Adult carers;
- Working with partners to deliver the annual Action Plan;
- Continued with the Cwm Taf Partnership Group to oversee implementation of the Strategy, reporting to the SSWB Partnership Board.

4.6 In 2017/18, a piece of research on 'The development of a Cwm Taf Regional Integrated Service Model for Carers' was carried out by exploring the national and local context, good practice from across the UK, interviewing key stakeholders and reviewing the commissioning needs of the Cwm Taf region. The Welsh Institute for Health and Social Care was appointed to assist the Partnership to:

- Review the existing model of services for Carers.
- Identify the most effective options for a regional integrated service model for Carers.
- Complete a detailed option appraisal with clear recommendations for the consideration of the Partnership Board. Reference should specifically be made to Young Carers, Adult Carers and Respite services.
- Support the development of an outline implementation plan to pursue the agreed service option for the region.

The findings from the Review are reported to TLG and the Regional Partnership Board. Actions are being taken forward through the Regional Plan.

4.7 The Cwm Taf Carers Strategy has identified priority areas for investment going forward under the following 5 aims. A detailed Action Plan was developed for 2017/18 and the plan for 2019/20 is being finalised.

4.8 The Aims for the Cwm Taf Carers Strategy are:

- *Aim 1:* Identifying Carers of all ages and recognising their contributions
- *Aim 2:* Providing up to date, relevant and timely information, advice & assistance to Carers of all ages
- *Aim 3:* Providing support, services & training to meet the needs of Carers of all ages
- *Aim 4:* Giving Carers of all ages a voice, with more choice & control over their lives
- *Aim 5:* Working together to make the most of our resources for the benefit of Carers of all ages

4.9 Welsh Government has 3 National Priorities for 2019/20 that we also have to implement alongside the Cwm Taf Carers Strategy:

- Supporting life alongside caring – all Carers must have reasonable breaks from their caring role to enable them to maintain their capacity to care, and to have a life beyond caring
- Identifying and recognising Carers – fundamental to the success of delivering improved outcomes for Carers is the need to improve Carer's recognition of their role and to ensure they can access the necessary support
- Providing information, advice and assistance – it is important that Carers receive the appropriate information and advice where and when they need it

4.10 Funding was previously available from Welsh Government to deliver the Carers Measure - whilst the funding came to the UHB (because under the Measure Health Boards were given the lead for implementation) the funding was used in partnership.

4.11 Welsh Government is providing transitional funding of £1million per annum for Wales in 2018/19 (£111K for Cwm Taf) to protect and build on progress to date and to support the expansion of Carers rights on the implementation of the SSWB Act. Funding will be provided on the understanding that we work in partnership to implement the Act by:

- Strengthening the partnership approach at a local level;
- Creating opportunities to enable third sector to fully participate in the delivery;
- Setting out how we intend to plan and deliver the increased responsibilities for health and the new responsibilities for local authorities;

- Ensuring this transitional funding is used as the means to embed the practice of mainstreaming Carers' needs, so it is common practice.

4.12 Welsh Government has stipulated, with regards to the Carers allocation for 2019/20:

- In relation to Identification and Recognition:

It is expected that you work with partners to implement a scheme which supports GP practices to develop their Carer awareness and ways of working to support Carers.

In Cwm Taf, we are implementing an accreditation scheme with Agored Cymru in GP practices. Work will continue with Carers champions in primary care to roll out this programme.

- In relation to Information, Advice and Assistance:

4.13 Discharge from hospital has been identified as an area where support for Carers needs to be improved. There is a need to improve IAA provided to all Carers following discharge from hospital of someone who is cared for. This includes involving Carers in developing any discharge plans.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no foreseen equality and diversity implications associated with this report.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 The multi agency Cwm Taf Carers Partnership has led the implementation and monitoring of the Carers Strategy. It has representatives from the Health Board, both Local Authorities, Third Sector and Carers. The work also involves a range of other partners including Department of Work and Pensions and Job Centre Plus.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

7.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report. The Cwm Taf Carers Partnership oversees the use of the Welsh Government transitional funding, reporting to the SSWB Transformation Leadership Group and the SSWB Partnership Board.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 came into force in April 2016 and is intended to transform the way services are delivered. It repeals the majority of community care legislation including the Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure 2010.
- 8.2 The new Act provides a definition of a carer as “a person who provides or intends to provide care for an adult or disabled child” and removes the requirement that carers must be providing a “substantial amount of care on a regular basis.” The Act includes new rights for carers and new duties on local authorities.

9. LINKS TO THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN & OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 9.1 The work to implement the Carers Strategy has complemented the Council's priorities to Promote independence and positive lives for everyone including Carers of all ages.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

- Children and young people Scrutiny Committee
- Health and wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

18TH JULY 2019

REPORT OF GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES, IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR HOPKINS AND COUNCILLOR C LEYSHON.

CWM TAF CARERS ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

Background Papers:

Cwm Taf Carers Strategy

Officer to contact: Sian Nowell, Head of Service, Long Term and Direct Services (Adults)