



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

17TH NOVEMBER 2020

CWM TAF MORGANNWG CARERS ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019/20

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

AUTHOR: Mari Ropstad, Service Manager – Carers

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to approve for submission to Welsh Government the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Carers Annual Report for 2019/20.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Approves the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Carers Annual Report for 2019/20 attached as Appendix 1
- 2.2 Notes, as in previous years, that the Annual Report has been submitted in draft to Welsh Government, pending its approval by Cabinet and similar executive arrangements at Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend County Borough Councils and Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board. The final version will be sent to Welsh Government following approval by all four regional partners.
- 2.3 Notes the positive work undertaken relating to carers across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region in line with an agreed regional Statement of Intent for Carers (included within the Annual Report at Appendix 1)

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Prior to the implementation of the Social Service and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 (the Act), Health Boards in Wales had a lead role under The Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure 2010 to prepare, publish and implement with partners a strategy for the benefit of unpaid carers.

- 3.2 The Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure 2010 was repealed following introduction of the Act, but the requirement for an Annual Report has continued as part of the conditions for transitional Welsh Government funding in 2019/20.

4. **BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 In April 2019, Cwm Taf University Health Board became responsible for healthcare services in the Bridgend County area. This meant that accompanying partnership structures in the delivery of social services across the Western Bay region joined with Cwm Taf and led to the establishment of a new Cwm Taf Morgannwg Carers Partnership Group to promote the integration of services for carers, as required by Part 9 of the Act.

- 4.2 The Cwm Taf Carers Strategy ended on 31st March 2019 and as a result the new Cwm Taf Morgannwg Carers Partnership Group developed a regional Statement of Intent for Carers to support its delivery against the three national priorities for carers:

- Supporting life alongside caring;
- Identifying and recognising carers and;
- Providing information, advice and assistance.

Implementing the Statement of Intent (included within the Annual Report at Appendix 1) will ensure that there is a commitment made to a range of strategic intentions, pending the publication of a new national plan for carers by Welsh Government for 2020/21.

- 4.3 For 2019/20, Welsh Government provided transitional funding of £1million for Wales (£161,000 for Cwm Taf Morgannwg) to protect and build on progress to date and to support the expansion of carers rights under the implementation of the Act.

- 4.4 The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Carers Annual Report for 2019/20 is attached as Appendix 1. Some of the key areas of work across Cwm Taf Morgannwg during have included:

- The Carers Hospital Discharge Project for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region
- Small grant scheme totalling £25,000 for third sector carers projects in the region
- Delivering the Agored accredited Supporting Carers training to staff in GP practices to increase carer recognition and support in primary care

4.5 Rhondda Cynon Taf Council has supported the work with carers and the carers support project has continued to operate with many new innovations to support carers remotely during the pandemic. Examples of some developments in Rhondda Cynon Taf include:

- Use of Intermediate Care Capital Funding to create a Carers Hub for carers of all ages in Pontypridd. Unfortunately, the opening of this Hub has been delayed due to Covid-19 but training, workshops and support activities to give carers a break continue, using technology, activity packs, boredom busters etc.
- A recognition film for Young Carers and Young Adult Carers (aged 18-25), will be produced during 2020/21 to highlight their achievements and challenges during the pandemic - this has been devised to replace the annual awards night

4.6 In addition, there has been engagement with carers and staff to get a better understanding of what the barriers to the carer assessments are and the improvements that can be made to increase uptake. A pilot was implemented in December 2019 to test out new staff guidance and assessment forms for carer assessments. This is currently being evaluated.

4.7 Unfortunately, publication of new national plan for carers expected for 2020/21 has been delayed due to COVID-19, but public consultation is now planned for October 2020 to January 2021. Once consultation is completed and the final national plan for carers is published by Welsh Government, a regional Cwm Taf Morgannwg action plan will be required to implement the priorities and recommendations established in the new national plan and a revised reporting process will be initiated for future years.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

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

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Carers Partnership has led the implementation and monitoring of the Statement of Intent and the Welsh Government national priorities for carers. It has representatives from the Health Board, all three regional local authorities, Third Sector organisations 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 Morgannwg Carers Partnership oversees the use of the Welsh Government transitional funding, which is administered by the Health 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 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 Statement of Intent for Carers and the Welsh Government national priorities for carers supports 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
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Background Papers:

Social Service and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014

Officer to contact:

Mari Ropstad, Service Manager - Carers