



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

20th JULY 2021

CWM TAF MORGANWG CARERS ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021

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

AUTHOR: Mari Ropstad, Service Manager – Carers, RCT Council

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to approve for submission to Welsh Government the 2020/21 Cwm Taf Morgannwg Carers Annual Report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Approves the 2020/21 Cwm Taf Morgannwg Carers Annual Report attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Notes the publication by Welsh Government of a Strategy for Unpaid Carers in March 2021 and acknowledges this as a key document in planning and delivering carer services across the Council.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Welsh Government provided transitional funding of £1million per annum for Wales in 2020/21 (£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 SSWB Act.
- 3.2 The annual report details how the transitional funding was spent in Cwm Taf Morgannwg during the year. The full report is attached, but key areas of work across the region have included:
- Around £135,500 of the Carers Grant funding was allocated to third sector organisations through an application process.
 - Support to encourage GP surgeries to take part in accredited Carer Awareness training to become Carer Champions.
 - Improvements to the hospital discharge process for unpaid carers.

- 3.3 Local authorities are key partners in ensuring the four National Priorities set out in the Strategy for Unpaid Carers are considered when planning, developing, commissioning, and delivering services and support to unpaid carers. The Strategy will be followed by a more detailed action plan in the autumn of 2021.

4. **BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 RCT has supported the work across the region and have maintained carer support services throughout the pandemic. Developments during the year for RCT include:

- **Carer Conversations:** New guidance, co-produced with unpaid carers, was issued to staff across social care and its effectiveness was audited with very encouraging results and feedback.
- **Contingency and emergency planning:** Work has started on improving opportunities for unpaid carers to make robust contingency plans for unforeseen situations.
- **Young carers and sibling carers:** The Young Carer Card launched in RCT in March 2021. It offers young carers an easy way to start a conversation about their role and we have also been able to attach discounts in local shops to the card. Chromebooks, received from WG, were supplied to 25 young carers and YACs aged up to 20.

For full details on the Young Carer support provided during the pandemic, please see the report to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 3rd February 2021 (link provided in the Background Papers section).

- **RCT Carers Support Project:** Support has continued throughout the pandemic with regular newsletters and a varied programme of online events and activities. The new Carers Hub in Pontypridd was finalised during the year thanks to a capital Integrated Care Fund grant and will become the new home for all-age carer support services during 21/22.
- **Happy@Home grant:** The Happy @ Home grant scheme proved extremely popular, receiving 198 applications from unpaid carers for up to £300 to support wellbeing at home.
- **Carer Friendly Employer:** We are scoping the possibility of achieving the Carer Friendly Employer accreditation offered by Carers Trust. This will involve a cross-departmental working group to propose a standalone Carers Policy and improve support for unpaid carers within the workforce.

- **Young Adult Carers (YACs):** YACs in RCT continue to be supported by a specific support worker. Their programme of events focuses on emotional wellbeing and building resilience.

4.2 For full details on the response of Adult Services during the pandemic in relation to unpaid carers, please see the report to the Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 8th February 2021 (link provided in the Background Papers section).

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS/SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

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

6. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no immediate Welsh Language implications relating to the proposals within this report. The Council will ensure compliance with Welsh Language Standards if a consultation process is initiated in relation to the proposals outlined within this report. All recommended proposals if implemented will comply with Welsh Government's "More Than Just Words" Strategic Framework in Health and Social Care".

7. CONSULTATION/INVOLVEMENT

7.1 The multi-agency 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 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.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

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

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

9.1 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.

9.2 The newly published National Plan for Unpaid Carers will become important for developing strategies and delivering support to carers going forward.

10. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

- 10.1 The work to implement the Statement of Intent for Carers and the Welsh Government national priorities for carers 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

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Background Papers:

Young Carers report to Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, 3rd February 2021:

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Council/CouncillorsCommitteesandMeetings/Meetings/ChildrenandYoungPeopleScrutinyCommittee/2021/02/03/Reports/Agendaltem4ScrutinyYoungCarersAnnualReport.pdf>

Welsh Government Strategy for Unpaid Carers:

<https://gov.wales/strategy-unpaid-carers>

Adult Service report to Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, 8th February 2021:

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Council/CouncillorsCommitteesandMeetings/Meetings/HealthandWellbeingScrutinyCommittee/2021/02/08/Reports/Agendaltem4AdultsServicesCovid19responseandsupportocarer.pdf>

Officer to contact: Sian Nowell, Head of Service, Care and Support (Adults)