



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

26TH SEPTEMBER 2022

CWM TAF MORGANNWG CARERS ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022

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

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to approve for submission to Welsh Government the 2021/22 Cwm Taf Morgannwg Carers Annual Report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet:

Approves the 2021/22 Cwm Taf Morgannwg Carers Annual Report (Appendix 1).

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Welsh Government provided transitional funding of £1million per annum for Wales in 2021/22 (£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 Social Services and Wellbeing Wales Act 2014 (SSWB).
- 3.2 The Cwm Taf Morgannwg annual report details how the funding was spent across the region during the year. The full report is attached, but key areas of work across the region have included:
 - The full amount of funding was allocated to local authorities, the health boards and third sector organisations through an application process.

- Support to encourage GP surgeries to develop carer related services including Carer Awareness training, Carers Champions in each surgery, a Carers noticeboard and access to information to enable swift signposting of carers to carer services in the area.
- Improvements to the hospital discharge process for unpaid carers.

4. **BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 RCT has supported the work across the region and has maintained many of the carer support services that were offered throughout the pandemic, whilst developing a hybrid model and delivering face to face services where appropriate.

Developments during the year for RCT include:

4.2 **Carer Conversations:**

We continue to use the Carer Conversation approach to Carer Assessments, which appears to be positive for our carers. During 2021-22 a total of 485 were completed, (Adult Carers) which is an increase of 129% on the previous year. For Young Carers, the number of assessments completed in 2021-22 was 98, an increase of 111% on the previous year.

4.3 **Contingency and emergency planning:**

Advice and guidance relating to contingency and emergency planning has been written and is now available to all staff. The guidance has been developed in a format relevant to the whole of adult social care, including carers, and is becoming embedded in practice.

4.4 **Young Carers and Sibling Carers**

- Siblings took part in the Young Carers Card promotion film.
- The Sibling Pilot was designed, delivered, and completed, following funding from Welsh Government. The project is based on a six-week period of intensive support to improve emotional wellbeing and resilience, followed with opportunities to take part in a range of activities throughout the year. (See Appendix 3)
- The current contract with Action for Children is due to end in December 2022, and a retender process for the Young Carers Support will be initiated in the Summer.

- For full details on the Young Carer support provided during the pandemic, attached as Appendix 2 is the Report to Corporate Parenting Board March 2022.

4.5 **Young Adult Carers (YACs)**

- A new YAC worker was recruited and in post as of January 2022 and Families First funding has been secured for 22/23.
- The YAC programme of events continues to focus on emotional wellbeing and building resilience, however in line with the needs of the young people, support is shifting towards a more individualised/bespoke approach.
- Young Carers and YAC recognition event took place.

4.6 **RCT Carers Support Project:**

- Happy@home Grants have been coordinated with 198 successful applications, totalling excess of £53,000.
- The new Carers Hub in Pontypridd has been established and is now open. ICF funding has enabled the development of the new home for all-age carer support services. This allows for increased collaboration and facilitation of groups and face to face activities and consultations.
- Staff are delivering support on a hybrid model, continuing to offer the online services that were considered successful during the pandemic.
- Coordination and allocating of caravan breaks for parent carers has been delivered.
- Online booking forms and essential Carer Support paperwork has been developed and are now live.

4.7 **Engagement work**

- Consultations with carers on the newly developed Direct Payments factsheet and Contingency Guidance have been undertaken.
- A Community of Enquiry regarding what makes carers feel supported in terms of respite and short breaks has been completed.
- A new graduate has been recruited and in post as of March 2022.

4.8 **Working Carers**

- Working Carers Guidance to support Council staff who are also unpaid carers has been developed. We are working toward achieving the Carer Friendly Employer accreditation offered by Carers Trust.

5. **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 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**

- 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. (See CTM End of Year Report, within background papers for more information).

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. For the financial year 2324 the carers grant will become part of the Regional Integration Fund, the implications of this will be considered next year.

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 [Welsh Government Strategy for Unpaid Carers](#) was introduced in April 2021 and represents a renewed commitment to improving the

recognition of, and support to, unpaid carers in Wales. It sets out Welsh Government's revised national priorities for unpaid carers, including the addition of a new priority on education and employment. The four priorities are:

- To identify unpaid carers and support them and value them
- To give unpaid carers information, help and advice
- To support the health and wellbeing of unpaid carers
- To support education, training, and work for unpaid carers.

9.3 The newly published [Strategy for Unpaid Carers Delivery Plan 2021](#) will begin to inform Unpaid Carer work in RCT, in terms of developing strategies and delivering support to carers going forward.

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

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:

Welsh Government Strategy for Unpaid Carers:
<https://gov.wales/strategy-unpaid-carers>

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