

**BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE EQUALITIES**

**12 JUNE 2013**

**JOINT REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, WELLBEING AND THE  
CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN**

**SUPPORT TO CARERS IN BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To update Cabinet Committee Equalities regarding:
- support to Carers in Bridgend County Borough
  - the requirements of the Carers Strategy (Wales) Measure 2010
  - progress concerning the Carers Information and Consultation Strategy and Action Plan 2013-2016, attached at **Appendix 1**

**2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority**

- 2.1 This report links with the following community strategy themes:
- Healthy Living
  - Strong Communities plus
  - Sustainable Social Services for Wales: A framework for action.
- 2.2 Supporting carers is also a priority in the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Bill. One of the key features of the Bill is that it aims to provide equal rights for carers, putting them on a similar legal footing as those they look after.

**3. Background**

- 3.1 A Carer is defined in the Carers Strategy (Wales) Measure as an individual, whether an adult or a child, who provides or intends to provide a substantial amount of care and a regular basis for:-
- a) A child who is disabled within the meaning of part 3 of the Children Act 1989, or
  - b) An individual aged 18 or over
- 3.2 There are currently over 350,000 unpaid Carers in Wales, 90,000 of whom provide over 50 hours of care per week. The NHS and Social Services rely on the willingness and ability of carers to provide support to people with health and social needs. The cost of replacing this care has been estimated at 7.72 billion each year (Carers UK, 2011).
- 3.3 The table below illustrates the number of Carers in the Bridgend area based on the 2001 and 2011 Census data.

<b>Bridgend</b>	
Number of Carers 2001	Number of Carers 2011
16,189	17,919
Number of Young Carers 2001	Number of Young Carers 2011
509	TBC

### **Local Support for Carers / achievements to date**

- 3.4 A Carers Strategy for Bridgend County Borough has been developed by the Bridgend Carers Forum in partnership with statutory and non-statutory organisations. This was presented to Cabinet in April 2010.
- 3.5 Carers champions have been identified in all social work teams in adult services.
- 3.6 A carers emergency card scheme has been established which triggers an emergency response for the cared-for person in the event of an emergency concerning the carer.
- 3.7 The early identification of carers and their assessment is a priority in service plans with respect to adults and children.
- 3.8 The Council works closely with the Bridgend Carers Centre to provide information and support to carers.
- 3.9 One of the priorities in the measure and in the local strategy is carers at Work. An information event held at Civic Offices in March 2013 for BCBC staff, the event identified 25 employees who were provided with information. A further event for BCBC employees, mainly schools' based staff, is planned for Carers Week (10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> June 2013).

### **Carer Strategy (Wales) Measure 2010**

- 3.10 The purpose of the Carers Strategy (Wales) Measure is to enable the National Assembly of Wales to introduce new legal duties on the NHS (lead organisation) and Local Authorities in Wales to work together and in consultation with Carers to prepare, publish and implement a joint Carers Information and Consultation Strategy. The Measure covers all NHS and Local Authority Service Provision whether these are directly provided or provided by others. The Measure is not targeted at any specific age group; it encompasses Carers of all ages, including Young Carers (under the age of 18) and Young Adult Carers.
- 3.11 The Guidance issued by Welsh Government in relation to the Information and Consultation Strategy, specifically seeks to address the following:-
- To ensure that Carers have the right information at the right time to support them in their caring role.
  - To ensure all staff in Health (including GP's) and Social Care organisations that come into contact with Carers can recognise their needs, provide them with appropriate information and signpost them to relevant services.
  - To ensure that statutory agencies properly engage with Carers as partners in the provision of care involving them at all levels in the assessment, delivery and evaluation of care arrangements.

- To ensure a partnership is established between each Local Health Board, Local Authorities, and Carers Services, so that a commitment is made to the ongoing joint working to improve the lives of Carers in the Local Health Board area.
- To ensure that action plans set out specific actions for Young Carers and Black, Minority Ethnic Carers.

#### **4. Current situation / proposal**

##### **4.1 Progress to Date.**

Following guidance issued by Welsh Government in relation to the Information and Consultation Strategy, a local Partnership group was established in October 2011. This group comprised of Local Authority and Health Board Carer leads, Carers Centre and voluntary sector representatives from the Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea areas.

##### **4.2 In order to inform and develop the strategy, the group undertook a number of key pieces of work which included:**

- An initial stakeholder event which highlighted the needs of Carers and introduced the Measure.
- The establishment of a dedicated carers training group to consider a consistent approach to staff and service user training which includes the adoption of a generic online training resource for all agencies to use.
- A number of focus groups with Carers in Bridgend were held to understand Carers issues and identify gaps in service provision. This was essential to ensure the strategy reflected the needs of carers locally.

These issues were then considered further in a conference in October 2012.

##### **4.3 The strategy was submitted to Welsh Government in October 2012. A response has now formally been received which states that the strategy has been approved. Early feedback received in relation to the strategy was extremely positive and included the following comment:**

“It (the strategy) contains a strong narrative, and the action table sets out clearly what the partners intend to do and when, as well as identifying very strong outcomes for Carers.”

##### **4.4 The strategy builds on the good work already being undertaken in Bridgend and the priorities reflect those in the Bridgend Carers Strategy.**

#### **Implementation and Monitoring**

##### **4.5 Implementation of the Carers Strategy (Wales) Measure will continue to require collaboration between the Health Board, Local Authorities and Carers Services together with the ageing involvement of Carers. The existing partnership group will be responsible for ensuring the successful implementation of the strategy and monitoring its effectiveness.**

4.6 In order to assist with this, an outcomes framework is currently being developed at national level. This will result in a robust set of performance indications which aim to measure the difference that the strategy has made to the lives of Carers in Wales.

4.7 The strategy is not a fixed plan but is the starting point from which a number of priorities will be taken forward over the next three years. The strategy will evolve as the needs and expectations of Carers change.

## **5. Effect on the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.**

5.1 There is no impact on the policy framework and procedure rules.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment concerning the strategy will be undertaken jointly with partners.

## **7. Financial Implications**

7.1 Welsh Government funding provided for 2012/13 to support the strategy has been £144,128 with an additional £13,726 allocated for Young Carers.( this funding is for ABMU and the three Local Authorities in the Western Bay region and is managed by ABMU) This money has been used on promotional material and training, an eLearning package, Information booklets and to support consultation with Carers. Welsh Government has confirmed that additional monies will be provided for 2013/14 and 2014/15.

7.2 A part time Carers Development Officer post has been agreed to work across Adult Social Care and Children's for one year to assist in implementing the Measure. The post will be funded from within the Childrens and Wellbeing existing core budgets for 2013/14. Successful implementation of the Measure is likely to facilitate an increase in the number of Carers identified and supported which may have future resource implications. Given the current financial position the Council faces any additional cost would have to be met from current budget allocations..

## **8. Recommendations**

8.1 It is recommended that Cabinet Committee Equalities notes the Carers Information and Consultation Strategy and Action Plan (attached at **Appendix 1**) and receives updates in the future regarding the progress of the strategy.

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**Background documents - None**