

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO CABINET

10 MAY 2016

### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

#### VALUING CARERS COMPACT

#### 1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Outline the joint working arrangements currently in place between the statutory and third sector organisations who participate in the ABMU wide Carers Partnership Board;
- Describe the rationale behind the production of the Valuing Carers Transition Plan;
- Approve the Valuing Carers Compact and participation in the delivery of the Valuing Carers Transition Plan.

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

2.1 This report links with the following priority in the Corporate Plan:

- Helping people to be more self-reliant.

2.2 Supporting Carers is a statutory requirement in the new Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014. One of the key features of the Act is that it aims to provide equal rights for carers, putting them on a similar legal footing as those they care for.

#### 3. Background

3.1 The Welsh Government Carers Strategy defines a carer as *'anyone, of any age, who provides unpaid care and support to a relative, friend or neighbour who is disabled, physically or mentally ill, or affected by substance misuse. Unpaid carers are the single largest provider of care to people with support needs in our communities, and they save the NHS and social services millions of pounds a year... There is a greater recognition of the need to support these Carers and the advantages of doing so. With increasing numbers of older people, and increasing pressure upon public services, there are clear social and economic benefits to enabling carers to continue in their caring role'*.

3.2 According to the 2011 Census, there are 17,919 Carers in Bridgend, 20,365 Carers in Neath Port Talbot and 30,349 Carers in the Swansea. In total 68,633 or 13% of the ABMU population are Carers.

## 4.0 Current Situation/Proposal

### Valuing Carers Compact (Draft) – Formalising Joint Working

- 4.1 ABMU Carers Partnership Board was established in 2012 in response to the Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure 2010 which required NHS and Local Authorities in Wales to work in partnership to prepare an Information and Consultation Strategy for Carers. Although this Measure will be repealed in 2016, the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 requires Local Authorities and Local Health Boards to co-operate and work in partnership.
- 4.2 The Valuing Carers Compact (**Appendix A**) has been drafted to formalise joint working and provide a framework for collaborative working between all the organisations which make up ABMU Carers Partnership Board. Currently the following organisations participate:
- ABMU Health Board
  - Bridgend County Borough Council
  - City and County of Swansea Council
  - Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
  - Bridgend Carers Centre
  - Swansea Carers Centre
  - Neath Port Talbot Carers Service
  - Local Council for Voluntary Services (CVS')
- 4.3 The Valuing Carers Compact is a practical response to the requirement outlined in the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 for partnership working across local authority, health and third sector organisations.

### Transitional Funding - from Carers Measure to Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014

- 4.4 In February 2016, the Minister for Health and Social Services agreed an allocation of transitional funding to protect and build on progress to date and to prepare for the expansion of carers rights on the implementation of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014. The funding is provided on the understanding that proposals are developed setting out how health, local authorities and third sector will work in partnership to implement the new Act by:-
- Strengthening the partnership approach at a local level;
  - Creating opportunities to enable third sector to fully participate in the delivery;
  - Setting out the intention 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.

### Valuing Carers Transition Plan

- 4.5 The Valuing Carers Transition plan (**Appendix B**) has been produced by ABMU Carers Partnership Board with the aim of improving the lives of Carers in the ABMU area by:

- Building on the progress achieved as a result of the Valuing Carers Strategy
- Maintaining the momentum of Carers awareness
- Providing a framework for partner organisations to respond to Carers within the remit of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014

4.6 The Valuing Carers Transition plan provides a means to action the new duties in relation to Carers outlined in the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 and has been produced with input from partner organisations and local Carers.

## **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 Carers are a diverse group of people and underpinning the transition plan is the commitment to recognise diversity, promote equality and to take into account the needs of carers irrespective of their age, gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion or belief. Equality, diversity and human rights are at the centre of our policies and practices.

6.2 There will be an impact on all protected characteristics and, therefore, a full Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out in line with the implementation of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

## **7. Financial Implications**

7.1 The Minister for Health and Social Services has made a commitment to provide transition funding to move forward from the Carers Measure to the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act across Wales. Confirmation of the exact amount is awaited from Welsh Government.

7.2 Decisions about how the grant will be used will be made by the Carers Partnership who will prioritise the delivery of the transition plan. Any additional costs relating to new responsibilities will be met from within the Social Services and Wellbeing budgets.

## **8. Recommendation**

8.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- note the content of this report;
- approve sign up to the Valuing Carers Compact;
- approve participation in the delivery of the Valuing Carers Transition Plan.

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**April 2016**

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**10. Background documents**  
None