

# Report

## Carers' Champion progress update Edinburgh Integration Joint Board

15 July 2016



### Executive Summary

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- 1.1 This report is to provide an update to the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board on the progress made by the Carers' Champion, Councillor Work, over the last year. The development of a Carers' Champion was one of the 53 Capital Coalition pledges made by the Council in August 2012.

### Recommendations

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- 2.1 It is recommended that the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board:
- note the progress taken by the Carers' Champion in this role
  - note the progress with the implementation of the adult carers' action plan and the young carers' action plan
  - invites Councillor Norman Work to consider acting as the Carers Champion for the Integration Joint Board until 30 April 2017

### Background

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- 3.1 The City of Edinburgh Council and NHS Lothian recognise the vital role that unpaid carers contribute to their communities across Edinburgh. A range of good quality support needs to be available to carers at the right time and place. This is to ensure that the individual needs of carers are met. With the advent of self directed support, there are more opportunities to have more personalised support which empowers carers through improved choice and control.
- 3.2 The Census in 2011 revealed that the number of unpaid carers in Edinburgh was 37,859 which is 7.9% of the total population of Edinburgh. However, the proportion of carers who provided 20 or more hours per week of unpaid care rose from 30.6% in 2001 to 36.2% in 2011. This equates to an additional 1,826 unpaid carers in the city undertaking unpaid care for more than 20 hours per week in 2011 as compared to 2001. In addition, the proportion of carers who provide 50 or more hours

per week of unpaid care also rose slightly from 20.3% in 2001 to 21.1% in 2011. In terms of numbers, 8,004 unpaid carers provide 50 or more hours per week of unpaid care, which is 21% of all unpaid carers in Edinburgh.

- 3.3 As demographic and social trends in our country forecast increasingly greater future demand for caring for another person, more acknowledgment and value is placed on the growing contribution and number of unpaid carers. They provide essential quality and skilled care and should be seen as equal partners in the provision of care. Without their input, the estimated cost of replacement care in Edinburgh is valued at £771M per annum ([Carers UK, 2011](#)).
- 3.4 This year has seen the passing of new carers' legislation in Scotland, the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016. This will give unpaid carers, both adults and young carers more rights including a duty to be supported after assessment in line with a new local eligibility criteria. The key aspects of the new act are as follows:
- changing the definition of carer so that it encompasses a greater number of carers
  - placing a duty on local authorities to prepare an adult carer support plan (ACSP) or young carer statement (YCS) for anyone they identify as a carer, or for any carer who requests one
  - placing a duty on local authorities to provide support to carers that meet local eligibility criteria
  - requiring local authorities and NHS boards to involve carers in carers' services
  - placing a duty on local authorities to prepare a carers strategy for their area
  - requiring local authorities to establish and maintain advice and information services for carers.
- 3.5 Currently our [Edinburgh Joint Carers' Strategy \(2014-2017\)](#) is in year three of implementation. The strategy was coproduced with local stakeholders from the City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian, carers' organisations and carers. It outlines local priorities and outcomes for carers in Edinburgh for the three year period, 2014 to 2017.

## Main report

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- 4.1 The Carers' Champion role within the City of Edinburgh Council offers the opportunity for an elected member to act as an ambassador for adult and young carers. It also allows them to raise awareness of carers' issues and listen directly to the voices of carers across the city in their communities.

4.2 The Carers' Champion is able to be involved at both a strategic and operational level. They have contributed to the development of carers' policy in Edinburgh and have offered their leadership and guidance when required. Carers themselves have also benefited as they can have direct meetings with the Carers' Champion.

4.3 Since April 2015, the Carers' Champion has been involved in the following activities or meetings over the year that has benefited carers:

- Attended regular meetings as a member of the Edinburgh Carers Strategic Partnership and the Edinburgh Carers Network
- Involved with the review and finalised remit of the Edinburgh Carers Strategic Partnership
- Helped with securing rooms in the City Chambers for meetings of the Edinburgh Carers Network and the Edinburgh Carers Strategic Partnership
- Involved with the planning of the Council's sponsorship to host an evening reception for delegates of the International Short Breaks Conference, September 2016 in the City Chambers
- Contacted the Carers' Champion in Midlothian and plan to meet to discuss roles
- Attended the launch of 'Vintage Vibes' on 02 March 2016 at the Grassmarket Centre. This is a fresh new service tackling isolation and loneliness among the over-60's in Edinburgh, offering companionship, reliable support and the opportunity to be more socially connected
- Promoted Young Carers Awareness Day, 28 January 2016
- Abseiled down the Forth Rail Bridge on 07 June 2015 to raise funds for VOCAL
- Involved in Councillor visits to several Third Sector organisations, which provide care and support to elderly people and people with disabilities
- Acted as a referee for Edinburgh Young Carers Project in their Big Lottery application for a grant
- Promoted the Carer's Emergency Card which lets emergency services or Social Care Direct quickly identify unpaid carers and how to best respond in a crisis
- Attended the 'Caring in the City' event on 13 November 2015 in Pilrig Church and helped launch their carer support programme over the festive period
- Provided an opinion piece in the Edinburgh Evening News for Carers Rights Day, 20 November 2015. Visited carer support staff who had information stalls at Waverley Court for Carers Rights Day

- Presented a young carers award at Edinburgh Young Carers Project 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Bash on 02 April 2016, congratulated staff and spoke to young carers and their families
- Promoted the 'Carer Positive' award with plans in progress for the City of Edinburgh Council to explore applying as a Carer Positive employer.

- 4.4 A photo diary illustrating the work of the Carers' Champion is attached as Appendix 1.
- 4.5 As a member of the Edinburgh Carers Strategic Partnership, the Carers' Champion contributes to the governance of the implementation of the local carers' strategy for Edinburgh.
- 4.6 Given that responsibility for services to support adult carers is delegated to the Integration Joint Board, the Board may wish to consider the appointment of its own Carers Champion. As the Carers Champion for the Council, Councillor Work, is also a member of the Board, it may be appropriate to ask him to consider acting in the same capacity for the Integration Joint Board for the remainder of the current political cycle which ends in March 2017.

## Key risks

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There are no direct risk, policy, compliance or governance impacts arising from this report.

## Financial implications

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There are no direct financial impacts from this report.

## Involving people

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There is no requirement for consultation and engagement arising from this report.

## Impact on plans of other parties

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There is no impact on plans of other parties from this report.

## Background reading/references

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## Report author

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## Links to priorities in strategic plan

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<b>Action 13</b>	Approach to prevention
<b>Action 14</b>	Support to unpaid carers
<b>Appendices</b>	1. Photo diary of the Carers' Champion in 2015/16