

THE MINISTERIAL ADVISORY GROUP FOR CARERS – 2018/19 ANNUAL PLAN

Vision for Carers in Wales

Our vision for carers in Wales is one where all carers are identified, recognised and supported for the invaluable care and commitment they provide.

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 gave carers the same right to have their needs assessed as those they care for.

The Act came into force over two years ago and to ensure that these rights are now realised partners across health, local authorities, the third sector, education - and carers themselves - have a role to play in taking responsibility to ensure that these enhanced rights are recognised and delivered to support carers in their roles.

To provide leadership and impetus, the Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG) for Carers has been established, with members including key partners to provide a national forum to steer the delivery of improvements for carers and provide a cross government response to delivering against the three National carers' Priorities:-

- Supporting life alongside caring
- Identifying and recognising carers
- Providing information, advice and assistance

Action Plan for 2018-19

To support the delivery of improvements for carers against our national priorities, in February 2018 the Minister for Children, Older People and Social Care approved £1.095M funding in 2018/19. £3m recurring funding to support respite provision for carers had been approved in 2017/18.

£3m - to support respite for carers given the critical role they play

£1m - to support partners to work together to secure better support for carers around raising carer awareness across GP practices in Wales and improving support for carers in relation to hospital discharge.

£95k- has been allocated to third sector organisations to take forward

projects which support carers in Wales under the three national priorities.

Monitoring progress

Welsh Government Officials have direct responsibility for monitoring the progress in relation to this allocated funding.

The Ministerial Advisory Group for Carers provides a national forum to oversee the delivery against the carers national priorities and agreed actions to deliver those priorities. The MAG will work with Welsh Government to agree and monitor targeted actions and funding to deliver the priorities in future year.

SUPPORTING LIFE ALONGSIDE CARING - All carers must have reasonable breaks from their caring role to enable them to maintain their capacity to care, and to have a life beyond caring.

- **£45k** – has been awarded to Carers Wales to take forward a project which will support employers across Wales to create a more carer-friendly workplace. Working with Carers UK who has already established Employers for Carers at a UK level, Carers Wales will establish a Wales Hub of Employers for Carers.

This includes the existing Carers UK resources being translated into Welsh, and the development of a membership subscription scale for employers in Wales. Carers Wales will set up a website, brand and target national employers already subscribed to Carers UK's Employers for Carers to support work that can be undertaken at a Wales level. (interim report due September 2018 – end of year report May 2019)

- **£3m** – funding was awarded to local authorities across Wales to support additional respite for carers given the critical role they play. The role of respite care and short breaks in maintaining the well-being of both the carer and the person with care needs is well-established. This funding is now allocated through the Revenue Support Grant; local authorities were requested by Welsh Government in February 2018 to maintain momentum on carer respite provision against this funding. (Interim report requested 31

August 2018).

IDENTIFYING AND RECOGNISING CARERS - Fundamental to the success of delivering improved outcomes for carers is the need to improve carer's recognition of their role and to ensure they can access the necessary support.

- **£36k** has been awarded to Carers Trust Wales to develop a national set of tools to support local authorities to roll out young carers ID cards in Wales. This work would:-
 - Provide Welsh Government with a range of options for the design of the National ID card which have been developed with young carers and tested with a range of professionals including teachers, doctors, nurses and pharmacists
 - Produce a bilingual electronic toolkit, guidance and resources to support Carers Services to distribute ID cards to young carers
 - Facilitate a quarterly national round table for Carers Services to enable troubleshooting, peer to peer support and learning
 - Facilitate a national process for young carers to have the ability to anonymously feedback their experiences of applying for and using an ID card – providing quarterly reports to Welsh Government and Carers Services
 - Promote the Young Carers ID card through our Network Partners and through our social media channels

(interim report September 2018 – end of year report May 2019)

- **£14k** was awarded to Children in Wales to support the Young Carers Network to help young carers exercise their rights. The Network brings together young carer representatives from each of the young carers projects across Wales providing opportunities for mutual support, and a forum for young carers to discuss issues of mutual concern. Once a year a group of young carers from the Network meet with Welsh Ministers to present to the Welsh Government the experiences and views of young carers in Wales. (monitoring on-going – concludes with meeting with Minister March 2019)

PROVIDING INFORMATION, ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE - It is important that carers receive the appropriate information and advice

where and when they need it.

- **£1m** has been allocated to health, local authority and third sector partners. The funding requires the partners to work together to implement a scheme, which supports GP practices to develop their carer awareness and ways of working to support carers. These schemes can encourage carers to come forward and register themselves as carers in GP surgeries and ensure they are signposted to the appropriate advice and support.

Also as part of the £1m funding allocated to health, local authority and third sector partners we expect improved 'information, advice and assistance' in relation to discharge from hospital. This would include involving carers in developing any discharge plans. Therefore it will be expected that health boards determine any areas of discharge that are working particularly well and use the learning from these areas to develop those that need strengthening, working closely with local authorities and the third sector.

- **£10k** to the All Wales Forum for Parents and Carers to expand the work programme they undertook to improve the awareness and knowledge of carers across Wales in relation to the Social Services and Well Being Act ¹. Many carers are still not aware of what a carers' assessment is and how it can result in support being provided specifically to benefit them. This funding would seek to address this.

This will help address an identified need to help ensure the successful implementation of the SSWB Act and the enhanced rights for carers that it brings. Many carers are still not aware of what a carers assessment is and how it can result in support being provided specifically to benefit them.

¹ Subsequently, in June 2018, a further £10,000 has been agreed for 2018-19 for a project raising carers' awareness of their rights.

Funding is also available to support carers via the Integrated Care Fund. Social Care Wales are also undertaking a programme of work to support social care for carers/

TO SUPPORT ALL OF THE NATIONAL PRIORITIES:-

Social Care Wales is leading work to develop a hub of information with resources and tools to support social work for carers. The Department of Health have established a similar hub under the Care Act (<http://carers.ripfa.org.uk/tools/>) and Social Care Wales will work with DoH to learn any lessons to inform the development of a Wales hub. The hub will include case studies, best practice guidance for local authorities in relation to carers assessments, setting out that carers:-

- must be informed of their rights under the Act to an assessment and be able to access them in a timely manner.
- the benefits of these assessments must be explained to ensure carers receive the support they need both to continue caring and to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

This work seeks to address the findings and recommendations of the Carers Wales Track the Act Evaluation of the implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act on carers.

Social Care Wales will work with Carers Wales and other Carers organisations to determine the scope of this work.

To support and compliment this, Social Care Wales are also working with partners from across health, local government and 3rd sector to develop an e-learning resource focussed on increasing carer awareness, aimed at both professionals and carers themselves.

The Integrated care Fund

Regional Partnership Boards have a key role in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery and this has become evident through the Integrated Care Fund (ICF)

The ICF is helping to drive integrated working between social services, health and housing, along with third and independent sector partners. It is used for a range of purposes. In 2017/18 the scope of the fund was expanded to encompass **carers**. The objectives of the fund now match regional partnership boards' priority areas of integration.

ICF Quarterly reports are presented to Welsh Government Officials – these reports will detail the programmes of work providing support to **carers**.

Updates on the ICF focused at carers will be made available to the Ministerial Advisory Group for Carers to support them to help identify good practice and seek to encourage more consistent support for carers across Wales