



ANGUS HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD – 12 DECEMBER 2018
STRATEGIC UPDATE: NEW DUTIES AND DEVELOPMENTS
REPORT BY VICKY IRONS, CHIEF OFFICER

ABSTRACT

This report covers two areas where new statutory duties have been, or will soon be, applied to the Angus Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP), namely the Carers Act 2016 and Free Personal Care for the under 65s. It describes progress towards implementation and identifies some emerging issues. It also outlines two areas where significant additional Scottish Government funding has been allocated in the fields of substance misuse and mental health, and the workstreams against which the funds will be allocated.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board notes the progress reports provided regarding Free Personal Care for the Under 65s, Carers Act implementation, and additional investment for substance misuse and mental health services.

2. CURRENT POSITION

Free Personal Care for under 65s and the implementation of the Carers Act have been previously reported to the IJB on 27 June 2018 (report IJB 43/18) and 29 August 2018 (report IJB 60/18) and included here are updates on these two areas of work. The AHSCP has received funding for activity in the fields of substance misuse and mental health, dated below.

2.1 FPC for under 65s

It will be recalled that FPC for under 65s will commence on 1 April 2019. A national implementation group is attended by the author of this report, who also chairs a local implementation group. Work is progressing well and key activity areas are generally on target. National Guidance is nearing completion; having been approved by the Scottish Government's legal services, it will now be considered by the Cabinet Secretary, then distributed in its final version to Health and Social Care Partnerships. In Angus, work has commenced on local guidance.

The funding allocation to be made available for implementation is the subject of discussion between the Scottish Government and COSLA. The proposed allocation is based on: calculations for loss of income; new demand; costs of assessment completion; and care home contributions. The total cost of these demands is still being determined. For now, the IJB should include a notional annual cost of £150k in 2019/20, stepping by £100k per annum in each of the subsequent years, on the assumption that costs will be fully funded by the Scottish Government.

2.2 Carers Act Implementation

The implementation of the Carers Act is progressing, with a new Adult Carer Support Plan process introduced from September 2018. The implementation of this process is being closely monitored to ensure that it is fit for purpose and delivers appropriate outcomes for carers. New Local Eligibility Criteria for Carers have been introduced alongside the new planning process, and carers budgets are now limited to carers who meet the threshold for support, unless a power to support is identified through professional assessment.

A key issue in planning future services from an operational and financial point of view is determining the approach to be taken to respite care. Put simply, the Carers Act 2016 requires that charges for respite where the intention is to provide a break for the carer should not be charged for. Of course, most respite offers support to the service user and to the carer in a mixture which is not easy to separate so the task of separating benefit for charging purposes is not straightforward. The national 'Waiving of Charges Task group' provides guidance for local authorities. Although we have not yet developed a definitive policy our current practice is to charge the individual service user for respite care in care homes and day-care, on the basis that the individual derives benefit from that service. However, where this is predominately provided to give a carer a break from caring, statutory guidance for the new Act requires that charges should be waived. Further guidance is being sought on this issue, but it can reasonably be anticipated that there will be some loss of income from the waiving of charges for carer respite, with a financial 'worst case scenario' of all respite care charges liable to be waived where this can be a benefit for a carer.

There is currently no clear pattern regarding changes to the demand for services and support from carers as a result of the implementation of the Carers Act. A Carers Strategy is being developed through the Carer Planning and Development Group and the group aims to circulate this for consultation in December. The strategy is being developed through a review of the activity of the Carers Centre and requirements of the Act, and carers will be part of this process. An assessment of the financial impact is shown in section 5.

2.3 Programme for Government 2018-19; additional investment in services to reduce problem drug and alcohol use

The Angus HSCP was allocated £366,337 on a recurring basis for investment in Drug and Alcohol Services in Angus. The government published priorities for each Partnership to consider. Use of the funding was fairly narrowly prescribed so did not merit seeking approval from the IJB for the intended spend.

The Angus Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP), with approval of the Chief Officer and Chief Finance Officer, have initially allocated this investment to the following projects:

- Reducing waiting times for treatment & support services by employing Non-medical Prescribers.
- Promoting family group work programme (Third sector).
- Reduce waiting times for treatment and support services by increasing third sector funding.
- A grant to local advocacy services to support families affected by substance misuse.
- Funding Peer support workers within third sector.
- Funding a post within Criminal Justice to support people at risk of re-offending.
- An annual fund for Participatory Budgeting i.e. small grants to local organisations who help prevent and reduce drug and alcohol misuse.
- Allocation to Scottish Prisoner Healthcare.
- Contributed funding to a Mentoring Young People Programme.

- Contributed to funding for a Tayside Public Health analyst for reviewing drug deaths.
- Contributed to funding a co-ordinating post for rolling out a non-fatal overdose pathway.
- Financially supporting local charities and groups involved in actively promoting recovery.

The AHSCP holds responsibility for the effective investment of this budget to meet the needs of the Angus population. The ADP governance process will be developed to ensure that measurable improvements are evident.

Primary Care Improvement Fund and Action 15 of the Mental Health Strategy

Angus HSCP has been allocated £689,576 from Action 15 on a recurring basis. This has been supplemented by £119,000 from the Angus Primary Care Improvement Fund. The objectives of these investments are, as part of the Mental Health Strategy 2017-2027, to support the employment of additional mental health workers to improve access in key settings such as Accident and Emergency departments, GP practices, police station custody suites and prisons.

Angus HSCP has agreed to invest in the following areas:

- Health and Wellbeing Workers in every Angus GP Practice by 2021.
- Secondary/Primary Care Mental Health Pharmacist.
- Investment in Scottish Prisoner Healthcare.
- Employment of Mental Health Peer Supporters in Accident and Emergency.
- Improved support in Police Custody suites.
- Funding a post within Criminal Justice to support people at risk of reoffending.

4. PROPOSALS

Work on each of these areas will continue and be the subject of reports to the IJB at a later date. The funding allocation under 2.3 above will be allocated as noted above.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are significant new monies for investment in Drug and Alcohol Services (£336,337) and from Action 15 of the Mental Health Strategy (£689,576). These will be reflected in the IJB's overall financial planning.

The estimated costs of the implementation of the Carers' Act are detailed below. As noted previously these costs have been difficult to quantify and these figures will be subject to significant revision.

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Implementation Costs	-	40	40	-
Infrastructure Costs	-	100	100	100
Carers Information Strategy *	80	80	80	80
Increased Demand (tbc) * ^	120	150	250	350
Waiving of Charges (tbc) ^	-	130	230	230
	200	500	700	760
Unmet commitments	0	(300)	(500)	(560)

* funding already in place

^ these figures are provisional at this time

It is currently assumed that the net additional costs of the Carers Act will be offset by additional Scottish Government funding.

It is also intended, within the context of the new duties arising from the Carers Act, to remodel the contract with Angus Carers Centre and discussions are ongoing at this time.

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November 2018