

## POLICY &amp; RESOURCES COMMITTEE 10 MARCH 2020

## STRATEGY FOR ANGUS CARERS

## ABSTRACT

The draft Carers Strategy has been designed to determine the Angus approach to supporting carers, building on the principles of '*Equal Partners in Care*'. This approach reflects the priorities in the Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Commissioning Plan 2019-22, and the spirit and requirements of the Carers Act.

**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 has been progressed through the Angus Carers Strategic Partnership Group, in consultation with key stakeholders. This has now been assimilated into a Carers Strategy and Improvement plan.
- 1.2 A key objective of the Strategy is to increase carer identification in Angus. Not all carers will require formal support but we recognise that preventative input at an early stage will mitigate the risk of a carer coming to crisis. By supporting carers to identify themselves before the role adversely impacts on their health and wellbeing we can better sustain them in their role, if they are willing and able to continue.

**2. CURRENT POSITION**

- 2.1 At present about 1800 carers (around 9% of the carer population) are receiving support from Adult Services or Angus Carers Centre. By 2022 we aim to be supporting around 3,180, or 16% of carers, in line with the expectations of the Carers Act Financial Memorandum.

We know that the number of carers requiring support in Angus will continue to increase due to the following drivers:

- (i) Demographic changes – by 2022 the number of over 75s in Angus is expected to increase by over 1,000 to nearly 13,000 people. Almost three quarters of carers known to our Adult Services teams support older people so we anticipate more young and adult carers will take on this role in the future.
  - (ii) The Scottish Government expects the Carers Act to increase demand for support between now and 2022 as awareness of the caring role increases. This is reflected in the funding related to the Act. In 2020 Scottish Government will undertake a national marketing campaign to help people recognise when they may be a carer and that carers have rights to support.
  - (iii) The Angus Care Model is shifting the balance of care and more people are being supported in our communities. Carers play a key role in achieving this vision and their input is likely to be required for longer periods.
- 2.2 The draft Carers Strategy 2019-22 and the Improvement Plan has been built on the Angus Carer Strategy 2013-2016 and the Strategic Outcome Plan 2016-2019, and reflects feedback from carers and other stakeholders gathered through the Carers Strategic Planning Group.

The strategy is more advanced than many in Scotland as the majority of the requirements under the Act are now already in place. The main focus of the strategy is now therefore in advancing the 'Equal Partners in Care' approach in Angus, which aims to empower carers as key contributors in supporting people in our communities.

**NOTE:** The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are referenced in Appendix 1 Draft Strategy for Carers

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Gail Smith  
**EMAIL DETAILS:** [gailsmith@nhs.net](mailto:gailsmith@nhs.net)  
Appendix 1 Draft Strategy for Carers