



ANGUS HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD – 23 AUGUST 2023
ANGUS CARERS STRATEGY
REPORT BY GAIL SMITH, CHIEF OFFICER

ABSTRACT

The Angus Carers Strategy (ACS) 2023-2026 has been created to outline the Angus approach to supporting Carers, building on the principles of 'Equal Partners in Care'. The ACS reflects the requirements of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2014 and is accompanied by a Delivery Plan which describes the actions that will be undertaken to implement the Strategy.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board (IJB):-

- (i) Approves the content of the ACS and the publication of a final version;
- (ii) Endorses the engagement activities undertaken to inform the preparation of the ACS 2023-2026; and
- (iii) Request the Chief Officer of the IJB to report back on progress with the implementation of the Angus Carers Strategy and Delivery Plan annually.

2. BACKGROUND

The [Carers \(Scotland\) Act 2016](#) is designed to support carers health and wellbeing and help make caring more sustainable. The Act places a duty on local authorities and health boards to prepare and publish a local Carers Strategy that outlines local priorities for the implementation of the Act. The duty to prepare a Carers Strategy is delegated to the IJB which is responsible for planning health and social care services in Angus.

In December 2022, the Scottish Government published their [National Carers Strategy](#) which highlights five themes for developing Carers support. These have been reflected in the Angus Carers Strategy 2023 – 2026 (Strategy).

In December 2022 the Care Inspectorate [Inquiry into Adult Carer support services](#) recognises that the contribution of unpaid carers is critical to the sustainability of the health and social care system. The importance of carers is reflected in the Scottish Government commissioned [Independent Review of Adult Social Care in Scotland](#) and the proposed legislation for a National Care Service.

On 11 December 2019 the IJB approved ACS 2019-2022. The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the ability of Angus Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) to review the Strategy in line with the original timeline of December 2022. The Strategy for 2023-2026 is a joint strategy containing relevant information for both young and adult carers who look after someone in Angus.

3. CURRENT POSITION

AHSCP recognises the crucial contribution young and adult Carers make to their communities across Angus. The draft ACS (Appendix 1) describes the Angus approach to supporting Carers and is built around the principles of *'Equal Partners in Care'* and the requirements of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2014. The Act outlines specific areas which are to be included with a local Carer Strategy.

The ACS has been developed in partnership with Carers, health and social care professionals and voluntary organisations that support Carers and builds on learning from the 2019 – 2022 ACS and associated review. The Angus Carers Strategic Partnership Group has overseen the development of the ACS and will continue to meet regularly to review and monitor actions and work together to improve Carer support.

The ACS was presented to the Angus Strategic Planning Group for approval on 16 August 2023.

The ACS 2023- 2023 has been informed by national and local context and outlines, local priorities and associated areas for improvement, outcomes for carers as well as details of the activities needed to achieve them. The strategy will support AHSCP to demonstrate impact on Outcome 6 of the National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes: *People who provide unpaid care are supported to look after their own health and wellbeing, including to reduce any negative impact of their caring role on their own health and wellbeing.*

The Strategic vision for Carers is 'Carers of all ages are recognised and valued as equal partners; are fully involved in shaping services in Angus and are supported to have fulfilling lives alongside caring'.

The Strategy identifies five priorities:

- Visibility: Carers will be more visible.
- Empowerment: Carers will be supported and empowered to take control of their caring role.
- Life-balance: Carers will have a life outside of caring.
- Influencing: Carers will be fully involved in the planning and shaping of services.
- Equity: Carers will be free from disadvantage and discrimination related to their caring role.

Appendix 2 provides a detailed overview of engagement which has taken place to inform the development of this Strategy.

4. PROPOSALS

The Strategy details AHSCP's commitment to support carers to sustain their caring role and enable them to have a fulfilling life alongside caring.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The IJB has funding within its current financial plan in line with the Scottish Government financial memorandum for the Carers Act. This funding was largely sourced from SG allocations.

A key goal of the ACS is to increase the number of Carers by encouraging people with caring responsibilities to identify as Carers at an earlier stage. In the main, the projected increase in Carers will be within Older People services and relates to demographic growth and shifting the balance of care. It is anticipated any increase will be mainly supported through Angus Carers Centre and any associated costs will be contained within the SG allocations as per tables below. We will continue to monitor the impact of the ACS to ensure that resources are used effectively to support Carers.

The Scottish Government has made over £70m in additional resources available to support the delivery of the Act in Scotland. The share of the funding allocated to Angus is:

Table 1 – Angus Allocation from Carers Act

Year	2018-19 £	2019-20 £	2020-21 £	2021-22 £	2022-23 £	2023/24 and Recurring
Annual Funding	200,000	697,000	972,00	1,648,000	2,134,000	2,134,000

The Scottish Government provided categories of care where they expected these resources to be used.

The commitments noted in Table 2 below are local priorities and will be managed within the above funding. This builds on previously approved plans set out in report 58/21. These monies include an additional £486,000 received in 2022-23 on a recurring basis to support carers. This funding is included in the commitments as detailed below.

Table 2 – Committed and Proposed use of funding from Carers Act

	2018-19 £	2019-20 £	2020-21 £	2021-22 £	2022-23 £	2023/24 and Recurring £
Cumulative Funding	200,000	697,000	972,000	1,648,000	2,134,000	2,134,000
Spending Plan						
Third Sector Support						
Support Carers Centre	-	120,000	120,000	120,000	236,000	185,000
Support for Carers of people with mental health issues	-	8,000	8,000	8,000	24,000	62,000
Support for Carers of people with dementia	-	-	-	100,000	100,000	100,000
Independent Support for carers using Option 1	-	-	-	10,000	10,000	10,000
Management Support	-	-	-	15,000	15,000	15,000
Planning Officer Support	17,700	39,000	40,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Contribution to Technology Post	-	-	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
GP Support for Carers	7,800	7,800	-	-	-	-
Care Management	-	-	-	100,000	100,000	100,000
Community Support	-	-	-	-	5,000	-
Parent Carers	-	-	-	-	87,000	87,000
Young Carers and Sport	-	-	-	-	6,000	30,000
Increase in SDS packages	1,000,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,505,000	1,505,000
Total Spend	1,025,500	1,674,800	1,683,000	1,893,000	2,128,000	2,134,000

While these allocations are committed on a recurring basis, we will continue to closely monitor progress and spend to ensure they are delivering services which best support Carers. Annual reviews will be conducted to ensure spending is in line with the original funding bids.

In the above, it is assumed that inflation pressures from 2022/23 are funded by the IJB centrally (i.e. from out-with Carers Strategy/Act funding). If additional Scottish Government funding is made available to support Carers, the issue of funding inflationary pressures would have to be re-visited.

6. RISK

Supporting Carers is an important element of a priority within the Strategic Commissioning Plan 2023- 2026, to provide care closer to home. By supporting Carers to continue caring,

cared for people will be able to live in their own homes for longer and potentially reduce the demand on health and social care services.

Risk Description	Failure to deliver on the priorities within the Angus Carers Strategy, aimed to support Carers to sustain their caring role and enable them to have a fulfilling life alongside caring, results in the IJB failing to meet its obligations within the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016.
Risk Category	Strategic and reputational
Inherent Risk	Level Likelihood 5 x Impact 5 = Risk Scoring 25 (very high risk level).
Mitigating	Continue to engage with unpaid carers as equal partners in care and health and social care professionals; continue to review demand and develop Carers support services which improve the experience of Carers in Angus which manage any potential escalation of demand on health and social care services; Monitor via SPG and report to IJB regularly.
Residual Risk	Likelihood 4 x Impact 4 = Risk Scoring 16 (high risk level).
Planned Risk Level	Likelihood 3 x Impact 4 = Risk Scoring 12 (high risk level).
Approval Recommendation	Based our understanding of the situation and in line with the IJBs risk appetite, the risk is deemed to be High.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Equality Impact Assessment is required in relation to the Carers Strategy has been completed (Appendix 3)

8. DIRECTIONS

The Integration Joint Board requires a mechanism to action its strategic commissioning plans, and this is provided for in Section 26 to 28 of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014. This mechanism takes the form of binding directions from the Integration Joint Board to one or both of Angus Council and NHS Tayside.

Direction Required to Angus Council, NHS Tayside or Both	Direction to:	
	No Direction Required	X
	Angus Council	
	NHS Tayside	
	Angus Council and NHS Tayside	

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 Angus Carers Strategy

Appendix 2 Statement of Engagement

Appendix 3 EQIA