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**COMMITMENTS TO UNPAID CARERS**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. To provide Committee Members with background information to facilitate their scrutiny of the Cardiff & Vale Unpaid Carers Charter and the Council's work to improve the support for unpaid carers in Cardiff, prior to the report's consideration by the Council's Cabinet on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October.

**Scope of Scrutiny**

2. Committee Members are to note the Cabinet Report seeks the approval of two Charters, the:
  - I. Cardiff & Vale Unpaid Carers Charter and the;
  - II. Cardiff & Vale Young Unpaid Carers Charter.
3. In their considerations of this item, Committee Members should remain mindful that the Young Unpaid Carers Charter, and its related work, falls outside the remit of this Committee. For Committee Members information, The Young Unpaid Carers Charter, and work surrounding young carers, will be considered by the Council's Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

4. The scope of this scrutiny is for Members to review the Unpaid Carers Charter, and work of the Council in supporting unpaid carers, and consider the following:
  - I. The decision-making process behind the Unpaid Carers Charter
  - II. Deliverability and achievability of the Charter
  - III. Subsequent work required of the Council in delivering the Charter's commitments, including cost and resource requirements.
  - IV. The Council's current, and proposed, support arrangements for unpaid carers in Cardiff.

### **Structure of Papers**

5. The following Appendices are attached to this cover report:

**Appendix A** – Commitments to Unpaid Carers draft Cabinet Report

**Appendix 1** – Draft, Cardiff & Vale Regional Partnership Board Unpaid Carers Charter

**Appendix 2** – Draft, Cardiff & Vale Regional Partnership Board Young Unpaid Carers Charter

**Appendix 3** – Companion document for the proposed Charters, which provides detail of the Charter's aims and commitments.

**Appendix 4** – Respite Consultation Survey

*As a reminder, information relating to young unpaid carers does not fall into the remit of this Committee.*

### **Background – Cardiff & Vale Unpaid Carers Charter**

6. The purpose of the draft Cabinet Report (**Appendix A**) is for Cabinet to:
  - I. Approve the Cardiff & Vale Unpaid Carers Charter and Young Unpaid Carers Charter

- II. Receive an update on the Council's work to improve the support of unpaid Carers in Cardiff.
7. Both Charters have been developed by the Cardiff & Vale Regional Partnership Board (CVRPB). The CVRPB brings together Cardiff Council, the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and third sector partners to work together jointly to oversee the development and delivery of integrated health and social care services in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.
  8. The purpose of both Charters, is to improve outcomes for unpaid carers across the Cardiff & Vale region. To achieve this, the Charters hold the following aims:
    - I. Improve support for unpaid carers
    - II. Explore and identify new ways of working
    - III. Increase accessibility to information, advice, and assistance for unpaid carers
  9. The Charters also sets out a number of 'We Will' commitments to unpaid carers and young carers living in Cardiff and the Vale.
  10. The commitments for the Charter relevant to this Committee (**Appendix 1**) are:
    - ❖ We will ensure unpaid carers are identified and recognised in our communities
    - ❖ We will ensure the right information and advice is given to unpaid carers at the right time
    - ❖ We will work to improve the quality of support provided to unpaid carers
    - ❖ We will develop and improve the skills of our workforce to help carers achieve what matters to them
    - ❖ We will make the best use of the resources available to contribute to caring for people in our communities and make sure unpaid carers have time to do the things they enjoy
    - ❖ We will work together to ensure unpaid carers are supported in education and work

- ❖ We will ask you to tell us what you think
- ❖ We will listen to the voice of unpaid carers to inform the development of services and support

11. Committee Members are to note, **Appendix 3** sets out the aims and commitments of the Unpaid Carers Charter in more detail, along with the Council's required next steps. Information relating to the Council's required next steps to deliver this Charter (and the Young Carers Charter) are also summarised in **point 19** of the draft Cabinet Report.

### **Background – Cardiff Council's Work to Support Unpaid Carers**

12. In January 2022, Cardiff Council's Cabinet approved the [Ageing Well Strategy 2022-2027](#), setting out how the Council will support older people in Cardiff to live safely in their homes and communities. As part of this strategy, a series of 'We Will' commitments to support and value Cardiff's unpaid carers were agreed. A summary of these commitments can be found at **point 9** of the attached draft Cabinet Report.

13. **Points 22 – 42** of the attached Cabinet Report, details the current work of the Council to listen and support the city's unpaid carers. A headline list of the work that is relevant to this Committee is as follows:

- ❖ Carers Impact Group
- ❖ One Voice Carer's Group
- ❖ The Carers Card
- ❖ Carers Champion Officer
- ❖ Carers Gateway – which includes access to community workshops, provision information and advice and contributing to a Carers expert panel.
- ❖ Development of a communication strategy to enhance communication of services, support groups and respite opportunities (including non-digital means).

- ❖ A 'comprehensive programme of work' to identify unpaid carers and direct them to support and guidance (including improving take-up of carer assessments)
- ❖ Day Service opportunities including a 'Hubs for All' approach which is to be piloted in the Autumn, offering specialist support and accessible activities in Hubs, delivered by carers to those with care and support needs and their carers (providing a form of respite to unpaid carers)
- ❖ Respite services – including sitting services and residential stays.
- ❖ Launch of a respite consultation seeking unpaid carers for their views on respite uptake as well as identifying barriers that prevent carers from taking a break from their caring responsibilities (**Appendix 4**).

14. In addition, the Cabinet Report also confirms work will now take place on the development of detailed action plans related to each of the commitments within the Charter. The action plans will include what will be done to support unpaid carers in their caring role, as well as how they will be supported to have a life alongside caring.

## **Way Forward**

15. Councillor Norma Mackie, Cabinet Member for Social Services (Adults) will be in attendance and may wish to make a statement. The Cabinet Member will be supported by relevant officers from the Adults, Housing & Communities directorate.
16. Meredith Gardiner, Head of Partnership Assurance for the CVRPB will attend the meeting to facilitate Committee Members consideration of the Unpaid Carers Charter.
17. In addition, Carers Trust have also been approached to attend the meeting, to share their knowledge, views and perspective on how unpaid carers are best supported. At the time of paper publication, their attendance at the meeting has not yet been confirmed.

18. Committee Members are to note, following any opening statements provided by the Cabinet Member, each representative (CVRPB & Carers Trust) will also be invited to make an opening statement (should they wish). Following these statements, the Committee will then have the opportunity to explore, with the individuals present, the Unpaid Carers Charter, and work of the Council in supporting this cohort.

## **Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. These financial implications will need to be considered before any changes are implemented.

## **Legal Implications**

The Scrutiny Committees are empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstance.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is recommended to:

- i. Consider the contents of the report, appendices and information provided at the meeting and report any comments, observations and recommendations to the Cabinet prior to its consideration of the report; and
- ii. Consider the way forward for the future scrutiny of the issue for inclusion within the Committee's work programme.

**DAVINA FIORE**

**Director of Governance and Legal Services**

**11 Oct 2022**