
COMMITMENTS TO UNPAID CARERS

Reasons for the Report

1. For Members to note the Regional Partnership Board's (RPB) Cardiff & Vale Unpaid Carer's Charter and Young Unpaid Carers Charter (**Appendices 1 and 2**); and an update on the work underway to improve the support for unpaid carers in Cardiff. A report (**Appendix A**) will be considered by Cabinet on the 20th October 2022.
2. Members are asked to observe issues in relation to young carers, which fall within the terms of reference of this committee. The Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee will also consider this issue at its meeting on the 17th October 2022.

Background

3. The Regional Partnership Board (RPB) brings together Cardiff Council, the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and 3rd 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. The RPB has worked with unpaid carers including young carers to find out what matters to them. This, together with a review of strategic documents, has helped form the basis for the proposed Charters.
4. An unpaid carer is anyone who cares for a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem, or an addiction cannot live independently in the community without their support.

5. Unpaid Carers make a significant contribution through the provision of care and support to relatives, families and friends. Providing this care improves the quality of life of the people they care for and can avoid or reduce the need for more formal care and support. This role is often unrecognised, even by carers themselves who may not see themselves as ‘a carer’. Supporting the wellbeing of unpaid carers is vital to delivering sustainable social services.
6. The draft Unpaid Carers Charter and Young Unpaid Carers Charters (**Appendices 1 and 2**) set out a direction for the planning and development of support to all unpaid carers across the region over the next five years. These are supported by a Companion Document that sets out in more detail the aims of the Charters (**Appendix 3**). A “respite survey” was also undertaken, and this is attached at **Appendix 4** for Members’ information.
7. In a legislative and policy context, The Social Services and Well-being Act 2014 gives all unpaid carers the right to an assessment, and to services if they are assessed as being eligible. In addition, The Welsh Government published a Strategy for Unpaid Carers in March 2021 which consists of four national priorities:
 2. Priority One: Identifying and valuing unpaid carers
 3. Priority Two: Providing information, advice and assistance
 4. Priority Three: Supporting life alongside caring
 5. Priority Four: Supporting unpaid carers in education and the workplace

Aim of the Charters

8. The Charters will aim to deliver on the following aspirations: -
 - improve support for unpaid carers
 - explore and identify new ways of working
 - increase accessibility to information, advice, and assistance for unpaid carers

Commitment to Young Carers

9. The Young Carers Charter sets out a number of commitments, as follows:

- We will ensure you as a young carer are recognised from as early as possible, so that we can help you
- We will help you understand what it means to be an unpaid carer and how we can support you
- We will work hard to make sure we do our very best to help you
- We will make sure that adults who might support you, such as teachers, can do the best job they can
- We will help you to still do the things you want to do, this might mean seeing friends, or doing activities
- We will work together to help you in school so that you can still learn and reach your full potential

Cardiff Council's Commitment to Young Carers

10. Cardiff Council has set ambitious targets within its Corporate Plan that 'Cardiff is a great place to grow up' and has a commitment to becoming a Child Friendly City. The goals for the Child Friendly City are:

Goal 1: Every child and young person is valued, respected and treated fairly

Goal 2: Every child and young person has their voice, needs and priorities heard.

Goal 3: All children and young people grow up in a safe and supportive home.

Goal 4: All children and young people get a good education that teaches them about their rights.

Goal 5: Children have good physical, mental and emotional health and know how to stay healthy.

11. To achieve these goals, young carers may from time to time require additional help and support as it is recognised that they often take on grown-up responsibilities and this means that they often miss out on the things that other children may take for granted, such as opportunities to learn, play and have fun.

12. The Council aims to help young carers to enjoy their childhood and have specific programmes such as the 'Time 4 Me' project. Delivered in partnership with the YMCA, this offers young carers a number of opportunities such as

mentoring and support focusing on health and wellbeing, educational support, support for families of young carers and life skills development, alongside group respite activities to increase social opportunities, meet other young carers and have some fun.

13. Planned improvements to the support to young carers is set out in the Children Services Directorate Plan, and the delivery is reported in the Social Services Annual Report (*both of which are being considered at this Committee meeting and contained in your papers*). The 2021/22 annual report includes the positive outcomes from the improved support for young carers, with the launch of a young carers ID card and improved access to respite for young carers.

Scope of Scrutiny

14. The scope of the scrutiny of this report is for the Committee Members to note the contents set out in the attached Cabinet report and its appendices. The Cabinet report states that a number of action plans will be developed, and Members may wish to consider these in detail once available.

Way Forward

15. As this report is primarily for Member's information, the Chair will invite Councillor Ash Lister (Cabinet Member for Social Services (Children's)) to make a statement if he wishes, but no presentation or question and answer session will take place. Should Members wish to look at this issue in further detail, it can be discussed during the Way Forward and added to the CYPSC Work Programme if required.

Legal Implications

16. The Scrutiny Committee is 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 circumstances.

Financial Implications

17. 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.

Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to note the contents of the attached Cabinet report and corresponding appendices.

DAVINA FIORE
Director of Governance and Legal Services
12 October 2022