



CABINET REPORT

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| Date Written | 3 rd November 2020 |
| Report Author | Rachel Grey/Lowri Morgan |
| Service Area | Social Services |
| Exempt/Non Exempt | Non-Exempt |
| Committee Date | 25 th November 2020 |

To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

Cwm Taf Carers Annual Report 2019-20

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 Prior to the implementation of the Social Services and Wellbeing (SSWB) Act 2014, Cwm Taf University Health Board (CTUHB) were given a lead role under the Welsh Government's Carers Measure to work with partners including Local Authorities, Third Sector and importantly, Carers themselves. Submission of an Annual Report to Welsh Government was required, providing an overview of the activities undertaken as part of the implementation of the Carers Measure. Although the Carers Measure has been repealed, the requirement for an Annual report has continued for 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20.
- 1.2 This report outlines the activity undertaken across Cwm Taf Morgannwg during 2019/20. As in previous years the Annual Report, attached as Appendix 1, which has been submitted to Welsh Government (due to a misalignment with timelines for Local Authority cabinets). Welsh Government will then be informed of the Local Authority cabinet decision.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that:

- 2.1 The contents of this report be noted and agreed.
- 2.2 The annual report, which is also being submitted for approval by the Cabinet in Rhondda Cynon Taf and Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board, be approved.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 3.1 As part of the Regional Work programme of the Cwm Taf Social Services and Wellbeing Partnership Board, a new Cwm Taf Carers Strategy was developed in 2016 to replace the separate plans of partner organisations. Working with partners across Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and including Carers themselves, the Cwm Taf Carers Strategy 2016-2019 covers Carers of all ages.
- 3.2 The strategy is currently under review and now includes Bridgend as part of our new regional footprint.
- 3.3 The Cwm Taf Morgannwg steering group have met several times within 2019/20 to draft an updated version of the carers' strategy. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions and Government guidance impacting on the group's ability to meet this work remains outstanding.
- 3.4 The Aims for the reviewed Cwm Taf Carers Strategy are:
- Aim 1: Identifying Carers of all ages and recognising their contributions.
 - Aim 2: Providing up to date, relevant and timely information, advice & assistance to Carers of all ages.
 - Aim 3: Providing support, services & training to meet the needs of Carers of all ages.
 - Aim 4: Giving Carers of all ages a voice, with more choice & control over their lives.
 - Aim 5: Working together to make the most of our resources for the benefit of Carers of all ages.
- 3.5 Having reviewed current services, building on the progress made implementing the Carers Measure from 2012-2015 and taking into account the requirements of the SSWB Act as well as the views expressed during engagement and consultation with Carers and staff, a statement of intent for carers has been developed in partnership between Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB the three Local Authorities; Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC) , Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC) and implemented until the revised strategy is complete.
- 3.6 The Statement of Intent supports delivery against the three national priorities (as identified by Welsh Government) outlined below:
- Supporting life alongside caring – all Carers must have reasonable breaks from their caring role to enable them to maintain their capacity to care, and to have a life beyond caring.
 - Identifying and recognising Carers – fundamental to the success of delivering improved outcomes for Carers is the need to improve Carer's recognition of their role and to ensure they can access the necessary support.
 - Providing information, advice and assistance – it is important that Carers receive the appropriate information and advice where and when they need it.

All projects identified for utilisation of the Welsh Government carers funding awarded to Local Health Boards in 2019-20 were required to meet at least one of these criteria.

3.7 Throughout 2019/20, partners in the region built upon the success of the previous year and continued to work collaboratively together and with other stakeholders in improving recognition of Carers and providing appropriate information and support. The Annual Report provides an opportunity to reflect on the progress made to date and looks ahead to the challenges and opportunities we will face in 2020/21.

3.8 Key areas of work have included:

- Working with partners to deliver the annual Action Plan.
- Continued work with the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Partnership Group to oversee implementation of the Strategy, reporting to the SSWB Partnership Board.
- The provision of Carer Aware training (both via e-learning and face to face) to further expand the knowledge of both Carers Champions and staff throughout the Cwm Taf region.
- Appointing a Carers Officer within the Local Authority.

3.9 Third sector partnership work within Merthyr Tydfil included:

- Primary Care Cluster GPSO's who engage, signpost, offer advice and work with patients to influence cultural and behavioural change for service users within a Primary Care setting.
- VAMT community coordinators providing information, advice and signposting to local community groups, activities and services.
- The establishment of a Merthyr Tydfil dementia support group.
- Continuation of the Merthyr and the Valleys Mind Carers STAR Project.
- Funding secured by Citizens Advice Bureau to create the CAB for Carers project.
- Funding secured by Cancer Aid Merthyr Tydfil to create their project Caring for Cancer Carers.

4.0 NEXT STEPS

4.1 Welsh Government has stipulated, with regards to the Carers allocation for 2020/21:

"In relation to Identification and Recognition: It is expected that you work with partners to implement a scheme which supports GP practices to develop their Carer awareness and ways of working to support Carers."

In response to this Cwm Taf Morgannwg has worked to implement an accreditation scheme with Agored Cymru in GP practices. This has now been rolled out in 15 General Practitioner Surgeries across Cwm Taf Morgannwg, of these 15 we have certificated 8 learners with the qualification. In addition, the training has been rolled out to Healthcare Support Workers, Pharmacies and Dental Practices

4.2 Welsh Government also stipulated:

“In relation to Information, Advice and Assistance: Discharge from hospital has been identified as an area where support for Carers needs to be improved. There is a need to improve IAA provided to all Carers following discharge from hospital of someone who is cared for. This includes involving Carers in developing any discharge plans.”

As of March 2019, we have piloted a Carers Hospital Discharge Project alongside Citizen’s Advice Merthyr Tydfil and Hafal. The project has been successful.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report. The Cwm Taf Carers Partnership oversees the use of the Welsh Government transitional funding, reporting to the SSWB Transformation Leadership Group and the SSWB Partnership Board.

6.0 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

| 6.1 | Positive Impacts | Negative Impacts | Not Applicable |
|---|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives | 2 of 4 | 0 of 4 | 2 of 4 |
| 2. Sustainable Development Principles - How have you considered the five ways of working: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term • Prevention • Integration • Collaboration • Involvement | 4 of 5 | 0 of 5 | 1 of 5 |
| 3. Protected Characteristics <i>(including Welsh Language)</i> | 2 of 10 | 0 of 10 | 8 of 10 |
| 4. Biodiversity | 0 of 1 | 0 of 1 | 1 of 1 |
| <p>Summary: The main positive impacts are to support carers to maintain their caring role.</p> <p>There are no negative impacts.</p> | | | |

LISA CURTIS JONES
CHIEF OFFICER (SOCIAL SERVICES)

COUNCILLOR CHRIS DAVIES
CABINET MEMBER FOR
SOCIAL SERVICES

| BACKGROUND PAPERS | | |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Title of Document(s) | Document(s) Date | Document Location |
| | | |
| Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution? | | No |

Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.