Integration Joint Board
Strategic Planning, Finance and Commissioning Committee

1st December 2026

This Report relates to
Item 11 on the Agenda

Update on the Carers Delivery Plan

Paper presented by Barbara Aitken

For Discussion / Noting

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Approved for Submission by:	Caroline Ronaldson - Head of Adult Services
List of Background Papers:	The draft Carers Strategy and draft Carers Delivery Plan were agenda items for the IJB strategic planning and finance meeting, for consideration and approval. (Papers not attached)
Appendices:	**Appendix 1** - Carers Delivery Plan highlight report

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide the Strategic Planning, Finance and Commissioning Committee with an update on the Carers Delivery Plan 2025-2028.

The report outlines progress against the agreed priorities, identifies key achievements and highlights areas for further development.

2. Recommendations

The IJB Strategic Planning, Finance and Commissioning Committee is asked to:

- **Note the work, which is ongoing to support Carers, as outlined in the Carers Delivery Plan.**

3. Background and Main Report

The draft Carers Strategy and draft Carers Delivery Plan were discussed at an IJB meeting on the 21st of January 2025. In March 2025 both of these agenda items were approved.

The Carers Strategy was developed with Carers and Carer Support Organisations and is focused on the identification of Carers as well as Carers Rights.

The Carers Delivery Plan is split into 4 main themes based on what Carers told us would have the biggest impact on them, which are as follows:

- identifying Carers early, acknowledging their lived experience and involving them in the way we plan and deliver care and support is most important to them
- recognise and value Carers, their caring role and understand Carers Rights
- access to Short Breaks for respite will enable Carers to continue their caring role for longer
- support, advice and benefits information should be readily available to people, whether they identify or register as a Carer or not.

For up-to-date progress on the Carers Delivery Plan, please see highlight report (attached)

4. Conclusions

The Carers Scotland Act 2016 sets out legislative duties for supporting Carers. The Dumfries Galloway Carers Strategy 2025-2028 and associated Delivery Plan supports the IJB and the Health and Social Care Partnership to meet this duty.

The Carers Strategy and Delivery Plan aims to achieve the vision *'Carers are valued, their rights are upheld and respected and their own health and wellbeing acknowledged and supported'*

5. Resource Implications

Staffing Resources supporting the Carers Agenda are as follows:

- Sandra Gyaltsen SSW and Operational Lead for Carers.

- Larel Currie and Fiona Bell are both part-time Carers Commissioning Officers focusing on key elements of the Carers Delivery Plan.
- Clark Adams, Carers Facilitator at DGRI Carers Hub. As we are looking to expand the support for Carers in community hubs (similar to the DGRI model) we need to highlight that there may be a future resource issue in terms of staffing this.

Budget Position - FY25/26 and FY26/27

FY25/26

Theme Splits	FY 25/26	Themes			
Identifiable Carer's Spend Summary	£ Budgeted	Identification (40%)	Rights (30%)	Breaks (100%)	Access (30%)
Commissioned carers respite support	710,102	284,041	213,031	-	213,031
Commissioned support	342,337	-	-	342,337	-
Spot purchase respite support	758,279	-	-	758,279	-
Staff Posts	112,804	45,122	33,841	-	33,841
Unallocated/ Various	228,699	91,480	68,610	-	68,610
Total Spend	**2,152,221**	**420,642**	**315,482**	**1,100,616**	**315,482**
Theme Splits	FY 25/26	Themes			
Identifiable Carer's Spend Summary	£ Actual	Identification (40%)	Rights (30%)	Breaks (100%)	Access (30%)
Commissioned carers respite support	710,101	284,040	213,030	-	213,030
Commissioned support	342,120	-	-	342,120	-
Spot purchase respite support	1,496,783	-	-	1,496,783	-
Staff Posts	83,194	33,278	24,958	-	24,958
Unallocated/ Various	95,930	38,372	28,779	-	28,779
Total Spend	**2,728,128**	**355,690**	**266,768**	**1,838,903**	**266,768**

FY26/27

Theme Splits	FY 26/27	Themes			
Identifiable Carer's Spend Summary	£ Budgeted	Identification (40%)	Rights (30%)	Breaks (100%)	Access (30%)
Commissioned carers contracts	710,101	284,041	213,031	-	213,031
Commissioned support	361,120	-	-	342,337	-
Spot purchase respite support	802,259	-	-	758,279	-
Staff Posts	116,752	45,122	33,841	-	33,841
Unallocated/ Various	103,000	91,480	68,610	-	68,610
Total Spend	**2,152,221**	**420,642**	**315,482**	**1,100,616**	**315,482**

6. Impact on Integration Joint Board Outcomes, Priorities and Policy

The Carers Strategy and Delivery plan for Dumfries and Galloway meets National Health and Wellbeing outcomes 5 and 6.

- 5 - Health and Social Care Services contribute to reducing health inequalities.
- 6 - 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

IJB Strategic Commissioning Intentions (SCI)

- SCI 2 Fewer people experience health and social care inequalities
- SCI 3 People and communities are enabled to self-manage and supported to be more resilient.
- SCI 6 People who deliver care and support, including Carers and volunteers, feel valued are supported to maintain their wellbeing and enabled to achieve their potential.
- SCI 7 People's chosen outcomes are improved through available financial resources being allocated in line with the Model of Care and delivering best value.

7. Legal and Risk Implications

There is a legal requirement to support Carers.

If Carers are not supported in their caring role, there is a risk that the demand for paid health and social care support will increase significantly.

8. Consultation

The content of the Carers Strategy and Carers Delivery Plan 2025-2028 was the result of ongoing engagement with the Carers Programme Board and Carers Interest Network, Carers Support organisations and Carers.

There was also engagement with partners and relevant stakeholders through online and In-person meetings.

An online survey was undertaken in 2024 across the region as an alternative to in person meetings.

The outcome of the survey was shared widely across the HSCP through social media.

9. Equality Impact Assessment

In line with the equality Act 2010 and public sector equality duty an equality impact assessment was undertaken with appropriate stakeholders and partners in respect of the development of the Carers Strategy and Delivery plan.

10. Consumer Duty

The implementation plan supports the principles of the Consumer Scotland Act by promoting fair and accessible services, reducing health inequalities, supporting informed decision making and ensuring Carers can access appropriate support within their communities.

11. Glossary

EQIA	**Equalities Impact Assessment**
IJB	**Integration Joint Board**
SPDC	**Strategic Planning, Delivery and Commissioning**
PSP	**Public Social Partnership**
CPB	**Carers Programme Board**

	HSCLD **SCI** **SDS**	**Health and Social Care Senior Leadership Group** **Strategic Commissioning Intention** **Self Directed Support**	

Appendix 1 - Carers Delivery Plan highlight report

Integrated Joint Board Committee Report **Carers Delivery Plan Highlight Report**	
Report period:	• March 2026 to September 2026
Recommendation to Health and Social Care Senior Leadership Group:	• Note the work ongoing to support Carers

➢ **What was planned to be achieved within this period**

Planned Activities identified within Carer Delivery Plan Highlight Report 20th May 2025 were as follows:

- Carers Integrated Joint Board to be identified
- 'Hold a 'workshop' type half day to discuss and inform move towards a Carers collaborative
- Finance discussions will take place at the workshop
- Circulate Short Breaks Statement to Carers for feedback and present through governance routes for approval
- Operationalisation of pop-up hubs
- Carers Week
- Development of a Carers Collaborative and agreement of a commission to support the require capacity and capability building
- Development of Carers Support Organisation Commission with the ambition to award before end of calendar year 2025

Planned Activities identified for the period of March 2026 to September 2026 were as follows:

- Review the Carers Eligibility Criteria
- Review the Purpose of the Carers Programme Board
- Review the Carers Programme Board membership
- Update the Carers Delivery Plan
- Complete Local and National Consultation on the "Unpaid Carers: Rights to a Break"
- Hold an event for Carers Week in June 2026
- Fund Carers Commissioned Service to complete "Think Carers" Basic Awareness Raising Training
- Work with In Control Scotland to develop Self Directed Support Training for Social Work staff. This will include the SDS standard for Carers
- To work alongside Quality Assurance Team to create a Microsoft Form to capture unpaid Carers' experiences. To be tested within the Carers Hub (DGRI) with the view to all Carers Commissioned Services having access to complete
- Develop a Business Case for the 18 hours Commissioning Officer's post and submit to Head of Adult Social Care
- To 'deep dive' on mosaic the categorisation of respite for Carers
- Updated the Postcard and Carers Hub Referral form with Information Sharing Consent
- Clarity to be sought on who now held authority to commit the allocation of the remainder funding from Carers Act Funding and whether the Carer Programme Board has formally lost its powers

➢ **What was achieved within this period**

- Carer for IJB Representative has been identified and has attended the IJB and Carers Programme Board meetings
- Workshop session with key stakeholders about Carers Collaborative and future commission of Carers Support Organisations was held in August 2025. Finance discussions were held at this meeting. It was agreed a paper that showed the Carers Budget position would be circulated to CPB in advance to their meeting
- Carers Commissioned Services, Chief Finance Officer and Carers Lead, CPB chair held a meeting April 2026 to discuss financial position. It was agreed a briefing paper would be submitted to HSCP managers regarding non care related uplifts. The outcome of this was that the uplifts were granted
- Short Breaks Statement was circulated to Carers for feedback, and this was approved through governance group.
- Carers Week took place from 8th to 12th June 2026. A full evaluation report and a draft action plan for Carers Week 2027 have been produced
- Public Social Partnership model has been agreed to develop Carers Collaborative working and commissioning has been supporting the required capacity and capability building
- Carers Eligibility Criteria was updated March 2026
- The Purpose of the Carers Programme Board was reviewed, and a statement was agreed with CPB/PSP members
- Carers Programme Board membership has been reviewed and people no longer linked to this area of work were removed and the updated list was circulated to the group
- Carers Delivery Plan was updated in August 2026
- Local and National Consultation on "Unpaid Carers: Rights to a Break" was completed. Unpaid Carers - Right to Breaks Consultation Analysis Report has been released by Scottish Government on the 30th October 2026. Background - Unpaid carers - right to breaks and timescales for support plans: consultation analysis - gov.scot
- Carers Training Consortium has been funded to develop "Think Carers" Basic Awareness Raising Training. Short Life Working Group met to agree the content of the training
- An agreed Self-Directed Support Mandatory Training for Social Work staff has been agreed with In Control Scotland
- Work has been undertaken with the Quality Assurance Team and a Microsoft Form has been created to capture unpaid Carers' experiences. Presentation of the form was shared at the Carers Programme Board Meeting in August 2026. Agreed this will be tested within the Carers Hub (DGRI) and the QR code will be shared with the Carers Commissioned Services
- Business Case for 18 hours Commissioning Officer's post was approved by Head of Adult Social Care. There has been a recruitment for the post and the start date is 2nd November 2026
- Deep Dive of Mosaic highlighted the need for clearer recording and clearer conversations with Carers, and that planned mandatory self-directed support training and practice guidance would address how staff identified Carers and explicitly recorded respite for Carers, with a short life working group to support this
- Carer referral postcards and Hub referral form have been updated to include explicit information sharing consent, which had been a gap when trying to share information between services and the Hub
- Clarity has been sought regarding whether the Carer Programme Board has formally lost its powers with allocation of the remainder funding from Carers Act Funding. This will now formally sit with the Public Social Partnership group

➢ **Was there any slippage within this period**

- No plan for this year's unallocated spend of the Carers Act Funding

➢ **Plans to recoup slippage**

- Please below risk identified and mitigation of risk

➢ **Risks Identified**

- With no clear Public Social Partnership (PSP) process in place to apply for Carers Act Funding, there is a risk that this fund is not allocated within this financial year. To mitigate this risk PSP needs to develop a process or an interim process agreed

➢ **Planned activities in next reporting period**

- Complete Monitoring and Evaluation Report on the services that were funded by the Carers Act Funding 2025
- Pilot: Occupational Therapy Service (Social Work). Look at early identification and support to unpaid Carers as part of their routine work
- Hold an event with Social Work Managers, Carers Commissioned Services, Carers Lead and Carers Team to raise awareness 'Think Carers", Carers Commissioned Services and develop partnership working
- Work with 3rd Sector to develop further training around Carers
- Deliver mandatory Self-Directed Support training for adult Social Work staff, to be delivered by In Control Scotland, (January to March 2027) with around 160 staff expected to attend. The training would include a contribution from the Carers Centre regarding recording of Carer-related outcomes and respite
- Pilot Carers Hub in Thornhill Community Hub and report to Carers Programme Board
- Carers Staff Forum – continue ongoing communications activity with NHS staff, including a recurring slot in the weekly NHS staff newsletter about balancing work and caring, signposting staff to resources such as Beacon and profiling local services
- Carers Voices- progress arrangements with Coalitions of Carers in Scotland for delivering local Carer empowerment / representation training, and to work with Carers Centre and others to agree the local hosting and delivery model
- Draft Short Break Statement to be updated to reflect the direction received from Scottish Government in relation to the Care Reform Act and National Consultation
- Carers Consortium "Think Carers" Basic Awareness Raising Training to be rolled out to staff
- Carers Lead and Carers Facilitator to meet with Quality Assurance Team to review early data, identify themes and report back to the Carers Programme Board with proposed improvement actions

Sandra Gyaltsen and Barbara Aitken

30th October 2026