

Meeting of:	<b>Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>Tuesday, 04 March 2025</b>
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Healthy Living and Social Care
Report Title:	Support for Unpaid Carers in the Vale of Glamorgan
Purpose of Report:	To update Scrutiny Committee on support for unpaid carers
Report Owner:	Director of Social Servies
Responsible Officer:	Natasha James, Operational Manager, Safeguarding & Service Outcomes
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Cllr. Eddie Williams, Cabinet Member, Social Care & Health
Policy Framework:	This report is consistent with the Policy Framework and Budget
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Scrutiny Report provides an overview of the current services and support available to unpaid carers in the Vale of Glamorgan and a link to the Annual Report 2024.</li> </ul>	

## **Recommendations**

1. That Scrutiny Committee considers the Annual Report on Support for Unpaid Carers and work undertaken to support unpaid carers and young carers in the Vale of Glamorgan.
2. That Scrutiny Committee considers the duties of the Council and its partners in regard to delivering services for Unpaid Carers within the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.
3. That Scrutiny Committee considers how the Council and its partners are meeting the Ministerial Priorities for Unpaid Carers and the regional work of the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Unpaid Carers Board.
4. That Scrutiny Report receives a Report on support for Unpaid Carers in the Vale of Glamorgan on an annual basis.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

1. To ensure that Members continue to exercise effective oversight of this important function undertaken by the Social Services Directorate.
2. That Scrutiny Members are aware of the duties outlined within legislation.
3. That Scrutiny Members are informed of the Ministerial Priorities set for carers and the regional work taking place for unpaid carers and facilitates support from the lead Member for Carers.
4. To ensure that Members continue to exercise effective oversight of this important function on an annual basis.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Social Services Directorate has produced an update to Scrutiny Members on an annual basis and the last Report was presented to Scrutiny on 7th March 2024.
- 1.2 Over the last year a number of key developments have been progressed, many of which are being delivered on a regional basis. These key developments are highlighted within the Unpaid Carers 2024 report attached below.

## **2. Key Issues for Consideration**

- 2.1 The Directorate continues to deliver and develop its response to the Social Services and Wellbeing Act and manage its statutory responsibilities and local needs within its resources, making the most of collaborative arrangements and Government funding streams where appropriate.
- 2.2 The Directorate's annual carers report for 2024 can be found at paragraph 6.
- 2.3 Whilst the core funding for carers services was not increased in line with this growth in legislation to support unpaid carers, there has been grant funding

available through the Regional Partnership Board (RPB) to support information, advice and assistance services.

- 2.4 The Council has maximised the impact of the available funding by putting in place arrangements to enhance carers' experience of the support available from Social Services and our partners by developing our existing arrangements and encouraging creativity and innovation.
- 2.5 Working with our partners on a regional footprint, enables the sharing of knowledge, experience and resources. This enables us to work together to improve the essential support to those who provide a care giving role within our communities.
- 2.6 Respite continues to be one of the main requests made by carers for support. We have been able to meet a wide range of needs by continuing to make funding available. Practitioners are actively encouraged to be creative and innovative in finding solutions to meet the individual needs of unpaid carers.

### **3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?**

- 3.1 The work of the Regional Unpaid Carers Board is governed by the Regional Partnership Board. The Unpaid Carers Board reports on its progress to the Regional Partnership Board.
- 3.2 The Partnership is committed to ensuring that unpaid carers are recognised within our communities and that every step is taken to ensure that the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan region is an environment that supports the highest quality of life both for those providing and in receipt of care.
- 3.3 The work stream is a long-term joint commitment due to the need for longer term enhancement and development of services for unpaid carers. We will continue to revisit our commissioning strategies and arrangements over time and to work with partners on the delivery of duties that are social services specific under the Act.
- 3.4 The Unpaid Carers Board has varied membership, drawing members with expertise from across the Regional Partnership as required.
- 3.5 This work stream has contributed to the refresh of the Population Needs Assessment and the priorities for the Area Plan.
- 3.6 Under the Terms of Reference for the Board, the purposes of the group are:
  - To inform the ongoing development and delivery of support for carers.
  - To support regional process and practice and compliance with the Social Services and Well-being Act.
  - To ensure all funding streams for carers are co-ordinated by bringing related discussions to one place.
  - To provide oversight and assurance of all RPB funded projects related to carers for the Strategic Leadership Group.

- To contribute to the delivery of carers actions in the Area Plan.
- To work with a wide range of partners to develop and implement a Regional Unpaid Carers Charter

#### **4. Climate Change and Nature Implications**

- 4.1** There are no Climate Change and Nature Implications as a direct result of this report.

#### **5. Resources and Legal Considerations**

##### **Financial**

- 5.1** There are no financial considerations resulting from this Report.

##### **Employment**

- 5.2** There are no employment implications to consider.

##### **Legal (Including Equalities)**

- 5.3** The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 introduced new rights and entitlements for unpaid carers in Wales. It introduced a broader definition of a carer and placed stronger duties on local authorities to identify, assess and support unpaid carers.
- 5.4** Included in the Act is the continuation of the requirement on the NHS and Local Authorities in Wales to co-operate in relation to the delivery of preventative services, unless this is incompatible with their own duties. It also requires regional partnerships to ensure information, advice and assistance is offered across the region in a manner which is accessible and suits the needs of their population.
- 5.5** The United Nations Convention and the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) have relevance to a child as young carer. Article 3 includes the provision that in all actions concerning children by public or private social welfare institutions etc. the best interests of the child should be of primary consideration. Article 12 makes provision for ensuring that the child's views are expressed freely and given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child. There are other Articles which relate to the rights of the child.

## 6. Background Papers



### Health and Social Care: Unpaid Carers Report 2024

Adult Carers: To identify and recognise unpaid carers for the vital contribution they make to the community and the people they care for, and in doing so enable unpaid carers to have a life.

[Go to this Sway](#)

Reports to Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee: 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024; 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023; 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022; 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021.