

ANGUS COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

20 NOVEMBER 2003

ANGUS CARERS STRATEGY

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH LIAISON

ABSTRACT

This report advises elected members of the development of an Angus Carers Strategy and seeks approval to publish and progress the strategy. Angus Council and its planning partners are committed to the development of quality services for service users and their carers. The Angus Carers Strategy sets out the agenda for the development of services to support carers and to promote their involvement in the planning and development of community care and children's services.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Social Work and Health Committee:-

- i) notes the content of the Angus Carers Strategy;
- ii) approves the publication of the Carers Strategy;
- iii) instructs the Director of Social Work and Health Liaison to report annually on the implementation of the strategy;
- iv) agrees to the publication of a Carers Newsletter and to a series of lunchtime briefing sessions.

2 INTRODUCTION

In November 1999 the Scottish Executive published "The Strategy for Carers in Scotland". In May 2001 elected members approved Report No. 633/01 setting out priorities, developed following extensive consultation with Carers organisations in Angus, for the use of additional Carers Strategy resources made available by the Scottish Executive.

It should be noted that prior to the publishing of the Strategy for Carers the importance of providing services for carers had already been recognised in Angus. Services already in place to meet carers needs included the provision of the Angus Carers Centre established in 1999 as a partnership between NHS Tayside, Angus Council and the Princess Royal Trust, home care services, residential and nursing respite care and the commissioning of specific services from voluntary sector organisations such as Crossroads. The new resources allowed these services to be strengthened and new services to be developed. The new resources have been used to commission additional services for carers from voluntary sector organisations such as Angus Carers Centre, Parent to Parent and Crossroads. It has also allowed for an expansion of residential respite for children with disabilities. New solutions to respite and short breaks for adults with disabilities have also been developed. Carers

involvement in services has been developed through carers conferences and the establishment of a Carers Forum.

3 THE ANGUS CARERS STRATEGY

Following extensive consultation involving carers and carers organisations the appended Angus Carers Strategy has been developed. The strategy aims to set the agenda for the development of services for carers across all service user groups. The Carers Strategy provides the framework within which the established planning groups should work to ensure that carers needs are considered alongside the needs of those for whom they care. Using the strategy to identify gaps in services for carers will allow planned developments to be included for action in relevant statutory plans including the Joint Community Care Plan and the Angus Children's Services Plan.

The strategy outlines:

- what we know about carers in Angus and the actions required to increase our knowledge about carers and their needs;
- what we know about the specific needs of young carers, carers from ethnic minorities and carers living in rural areas;
- the need to provide carers with good quality accurate information about services;
- the need to develop practical support for carers;
- the need for improved co-ordination of services for carers.

5 December 2003 is Carers Rights Day. This day celebrates the contribution of carers and aims to challenge government at a national level to address issues related to the rights of carers. It is therefore timely to publish the Angus Carers Strategy at this time.

4 PROPOSED BRIEFING SESSIONS FOR CARERS

It is proposed to launch the Carers Strategy at one of a series of lunch-time carers briefing sessions. Carers have been seeking information on a range of information such as direct payments, the Adults with Incapacity Act, the changes to carers assessment following the Community Care and Health Act 2002 and the Partnership in Practice Agreement. It is proposed to facilitate a series of briefing sessions on each of these areas. These briefing sessions are an alternative to a carers conference with the aim that they will allow more carers to access information of specific relevance to them.

In addition to the briefing sessions it is proposed to produce a Carers Newsletter outlining the contents of the Carers Strategy and informing carers of how they can access a copy of the strategy or other information they may require.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from the publication of the Carers Strategy. The financial implications associated with producing the strategy and facilitating the proposed briefing sessions will be met from Carers Strategy resources.

6 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights implications arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

7 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration and the Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8 CONCLUSION

The Angus Carers Strategy provides a framework for considering the needs of carers and ensuring action is taken to develop services to better support carers in their caring task.

R Peat
Director of Social Work and Health Liaison

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.