



AGENDA ITEM NO 14

REPORT NO IJB 54/24

ANGUS INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

28 AUGUST 2024

CARERS STRATEGY UPDATE

REPORT BY JILLIAN GALLOWAY, CHIEF OFFICER

1. ABSTRACT

This report provides an update on progress to implement the Angus Carers Strategy 2023-2026.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN

Supporting unpaid carers to sustain their caring role and enable them to have a fulfilling life alongside caring is a strategic commitment with Priority 2, Care Closer to Home.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board:

- (i) Scrutinise and discuss the content of this Report;
- (ii) Consider and agree a reasonable level of assurance regards the progress made to implement the Angus Carers Strategy 2023 – 2026; and
- (iii) Acknowledge further reports will be presented as per the workplan.

4. BACKGROUND

The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 places a duty on local authorities and health boards to prepare and publish a local Carers strategy. The duty to prepare the Angus Carers Strategy (ACS) is delegated to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) which is responsible for planning health and social care services in Angus.

The [Angus Carers Strategy 2023-2026](#) (ACS) was approved by the IJB in August 2023 (IJB 60/23) and sets out our commitments to Carers and describes how Angus Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) will support Carers of all ages during 2023-2026.

The Strategy identifies five priorities:

- **Visibility:** Carers will be more visible.
- **Empowerment:** Carers will be supported and empowered to take control of their caring role.
- **Life-balance:** Carers will have a life outside of caring
- **Influencing:** Carers will be fully involved in the planning and shaping of services.
- **Equity:** Carers will be free from disadvantage and discrimination related to their caring role.

The ACS plays an integral part in Angus meeting the National Health and Wellbeing Outcome 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.

Implementation work is co-ordinated through the Angus Carers Strategic Partnership Group (ACSPG) which includes representatives from AHSCP services and partners involved in supporting adult and young Carers across Angus. The ACSPG co-ordinates local partnership working to support the implementation of the ACS which reflects legislation, regulation and guidance, and local learning. In doing so, the vital contribution made by Carers in Angus can be supported and sustained as well as ensuring that Angus IJB meets its statutory requirements to involve carers in services and service planning.

AHSCP works closely with Angus Carers Centre who are commissioned to support the provision of information, advice, guidance to adult and young carers.

5. CURRENT POSITION

As Chief Officer for AHSCP, I would suggest that the level of assurance is: **Reasonable** due to level of progress made to deliver the Carers Strategy Delivery Plan, detailed below.

The Carers Strategic Delivery Plan has been reviewed, updated, and amended. The updated plan is available in Appendix 1. Most actions are not due for completion until 2025/2026.

Priority	Number of Actions	Status			
		RED Not started	AMBER Concern meeting deadline	GREEN On - track	BLUE Completed
Visibility – Carers will be more visible	11	0	0	11	0
Empowerment: Carers will be supported and empowered to take full control their caring role	11	0	0	10	1
Life-balance: Carers will have a life outside of caring	9	0	0	8	1
Influencing: Carers will be fully involved in the planning and shaping of services	5	0	0	5	0
Equity: Carers will be free from disadvantage and discrimination due to their caring role	6	1	1	4	0
TOTAL	42	1	1	38	2

Of the two blue actions:

- The [Angus Carers Information Pack](#) was published in June 2024. The pack has been produced for Carers with Carers. It contains the information that Carers and professionals told us would be useful to have all in one place.
- A test of change was completed during the 2024 Easter holidays supporting activities for young carers with ANGUSalive.

Of the one amber actions:

- We are planning activities to raise awareness of the [Carer Positive Award](#) which is presented to employers in Scotland who have a working environment where carers are valued and supported.

Of the 38 green actions, a selection from each of the priorities is detailed below.

Visibility:

- In April 2024 training modules aligned to Equal Partners in Care, were added to the in-house training portal to support staff to identify Carers early. The modules have also been added to the Social Work induction pack.
- Angus Carers Centre facilitate a fortnightly “pop up shop” at Susan Carnegie Centre in Brechin to raise awareness on-site, with patients, carers, and ward staff, who may also be Carers. This pilot is currently being evaluated with view to rolling out to Whitehills Health and Community Care Centre in Forfar and Arbroath Infirmary.

Empowerment:

- The number of people with a Carer Emergency Card continues to increase. Work remains ongoing to promote the importance of emergency planning.
- A Senior Planning Officer is in post who is specifically works on SDS improvements. The Angus SDS toolkit has been redesigned and renamed the Angus Support Pathway’ and provides tools and information to assist teams in their role.

Life-balance:

- As a result of support and funding from [The Promise](#) ACC have adapted their support to young carers so that young carers are recognised from the age of 5 years (previously 8 years old) to 18 years old. Two Education Development workers cover all 51 Primary Schools in Angus. In partnership with The Promise, Young Carers in Angus have produced a short [film](#) which highlights, in their own words, the impact of their caring role.
- Young Carer Champions (YCC) are present in each of the eight secondary schools in Angus. YCCs are members of school staff who work alongside the ACC Young Carer Education Development worker and ensure that every young carer has a trusted adult in school they can go to if things are difficult, or they need more support. Work is on-going to allocate protected time for teachers in this role.
- A Young Adult Carer Champion is based at Dundee and Angus College to support carers aged 18 – 24 who remain in education.

Influencing:

- The ACC Carers Influencer Group was established in 2023 and is a forum to initiate discussions about the implementation of specific actions within the ACS.

Equity:

- Work is ongoing to amend the wording within the eligibility criteria for Carers so that it is aligned to that of a supported person.

Measures of success

The ACS identifies measures of success in addition to the National Indicator. Progress is detailed in Table 1.

Table 1. National and local indicators

Description	Where do we want to be in 2026	Progress in 2023/24
National Indicator: Percentage of carers who feel supported to continue in their caring role.	40%	33.7% This is higher than the Scottish value of 31.2% and has increased from the 21/22 value of 29.5%.
Adult Carers registered with ACC	2116	1908
Young Carers registered with ACC	98	206
Young Carers registered on the Scottish Management Information Software (SEEmis)	143	148
Number of carers of an ethnic minority registered with ACC	26	21
Number of Adult Carer Support Plans completed	330	284
Number of Young Carer Statements completed*	60	61
Number of completed Carer Cards	389	415
Number of 'I depend on someone cards'	127	125

In areas where targets have been met or exceeded, the ACSPG will consider adjusting the 2026 target.

*In relation to Young Carers, work remains ongoing with Carer Champions and Angus Carers Centre to capture information to record the number of young carers who are offered the opportunity to prepare a young carer statement and the outcome of these discussions. This is because we know that some young carers are offered the opportunity to prepare a young carer statement but decline this opportunity.

6. PROPOSALS

It has been agreed that funding from a legacy left to AHSCP will support the development of a Carers Academy. The Academy, overseen by the Post Diagnostic Dementia Service, will support carers of people living with dementia to be better equipped to meet the care needs by having a greater understanding of the illness and practical skills to manage care challenges.

Substantial work is taking place to ensure that AHSCP guidance documents for Carers budget, personal budget, and associated operational Instructions for SDS Options are aligned to relevant legislation, statutory guidance and best practice. It is anticipated that the Spending Your Carers Budget will be available for review by the Carers Influencer Group and wider Carers across Angus in August 2024.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The IJB has funding within its current financial plan in line with the Scottish Government (SG) financial memorandum for the Carers Act. This funding was largely sourced from SG allocations.

We will continue to monitor the impact of the Angus Carers Strategy to ensure that resources are used effectively to support carers.

As previously noted the Scottish Government has made over £70m in additional resources available to support the delivery of the Act in Scotland. The share of the funding allocated to Angus is described in Table 2.

Table 2 – Angus Allocation from Carers Act

Year	2018-19 £	2019-20 £	2020-21 £	2021-22 £	2022-23 £	2023-24 £	*2024-25 £
Annual Funding	200,000	697,000	972,000	1,648,000	2,134,000	2,134,000	2,265,000

*Allocation for 2024-25 includes an element of inflationary uplift in relation to SDS packages

The Scottish Government provided categories of care where they expected these resources to be used.

The commitments noted in Table 3 below are local priorities and will be managed within the above funding.

Table 3 provides a summary of the commitments as per IJB report 60/23, the actual expenditure for 2023-24 against each allocation and the planned spend for 2024-25. An inflationary uplift has been included in relation to the SDS package element of the budget (c70% of budget) for 2024-25 in line with Scottish Government guidance and funding received.

Table 3 – Committed use of funding from Carers Act

	Planned Spend as per IJB Report 60/23 2023-24 £	Actual Spend 2023-24 £	Planned Spend 2024-25 £
Funding	2,134,000	2,134,000	2,265,000
Spending Plan			
Third Sector Support			
- Support Carers Centre	185,000	188,200	214,500
- Support for Carers of people with mental health issues	62,000	34,400	62,000
- Support for Carers of people with dementia	100,000	100,000	100,000
- Independent Support for carers using Option 1	10,000	10,000	10,000
Planning Officer Support	55,000	55,000	55,000
Care Management	100,000	100,000	100,000
Parent Carers	87,000	87,000	87,500
Young Carers and Sport	30,000	-	-
SDS Packages	1,505,000	1,572,100	1,718,600
Total spend	2,134,000	2,146,700	2,347,600

These spends are now mainstreamed into service budgets

For financial year 2025-26 we will mainstream all allocations within service budgets but will maintain an overall audit trail of the funding for reference. While these allocations are committed on a recurring basis, we will continue to closely monitor progress and spend to ensure they are delivering services which best support Carers. During the current financial year there has been slippage within some of the grants and this funding has been redirected to support an Education Support Worker who is working with young carers in Angus secondary schools.

In line with all other contracts and grants within AHSCP, a review will be undertaken during 2024-25 to ensure best value is being delivered. Any amendments to the spending plan will be discussed and agreed through the ACSPG and reported to the IJB through the annual update report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk Description	Failure to deliver on the priorities within the SCP which improve the health and wellbeing outcomes of the population of Angus within available resources
Risk Category	Strategic
Inherent Risk Level	Level Likelihood 5 x Impact 5 = Risk Scoring 25 (very high-risk level).
Mitigating Actions	Mitigating Actions: Identify and progress actions within the SDP to ensure AHSCP supports carers to sustain their caring role and enable them to have a fulfilling life alongside caring. Monitor via Angus Carers Strategic Partnership Group, SPG, Strategic Delivery Group and report to IJB regularly.
Residual Risk Level	Likelihood 5 x Impact 4 = Risk Scoring 20 (very high-risk level)
Planned Risk Level	Likelihood 4 x Impact 4 = Risk Scoring 16 (high risk level)
Approval recommendation	Given our developed understanding of the situation and in line with the IJB's risk appetite, the risk is deemed to be High but manageable at this current time

9. PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

The adverse health effects of caring are well recognised and are primarily psychological and often manifest themselves as symptoms of anxiety, depression, loneliness and social isolation. Caregiving is associated with an increased risk of both onset and recurrent distress, and legacies of poor health persist beyond the end of caregiving.

10. CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The impacts of climate change intensifies the work involved in caring for people, increasing psychological distress and trauma as we have seen following the flooding because of Storm Babet in 2023. The information provided within this report describes the ongoing work to ensure supports for Carers are sustainable now and in the future.

11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT, CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

The EQIA for the Angus Carers Strategy has been updated and can be found in Appendix 2.

12. COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

AHSCP has worked with Carers to develop the Angus Carers Information Pack.

In June 2024, as part of National Carers Week, AHSCP produced a podcast to highlight the invaluable role of Carers, the importance of seeking support as early as possible and where to find support. The podcast has received 1000 listens to date.

13. DIRECTIONS

The Integration Joint Board requires a mechanism to action its strategic commissioning plans and this is provided for in Section 26 to 28 of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014. This mechanism takes the form of binding directions from the Integration Joint Board to one or both of Angus Council and NHS Tayside.

Direction Required to Angus Council, NHS Tayside or Both	Direction to:	
	No Direction Required	x
	Angus Council	
	NHS Tayside	
	Angus Council and NHS Tayside	

REPORT AUTHOR: Jane Hallam, Project Officer, Carers, AHSCP
Eunice McLennan, Head of Service
Sally Wilson, Service Manager, Integration, AHSCP

EMAIL DETAILS: tay.angushscp@nhs.scot

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Angus Carers Strategy 2023-2026 Action Plan Update

Appendix 2 - Angus Carers Strategy Equality Impact Assessment