

**Notes from the Clackmannanshire Carers' Voice Meeting**  
**Thursday 03 March 2022**

**Present:** Maureen Day, Graham Pearson, Stella MacDonald, Eugene Greasley, Elizabeth Murdoch, Margaret Daniels, Douglas Tully, Paul Morris (carers), Lesley Fulford, Lesley Shaw (C&S H&SCP), Jessie-Anne Malcolm (NHS FV), Elizabeth Ramsay (F&CCC Board Member), Laura McKenzie. Alison Tanner. Tracy Gibson, Diane Brines (F&C Carers Centre)

**Apologies:** Cllr Les Sharp, Liz Rowlett, CTSi  
Kirsty McGregor, Joyce Kerr, Isabel Ferguson, Lisa Bell, Gillian Hynd, Margaret Ramage, Jackie Millar, Brenda Simm (carers)

Nicola Weedon welcomed everyone to the Meeting

**1. National Care Service Outcomes**

Nicola spoke about the outcomes from the National Care Service consultation which took place last year (slides in appendix). The analysis of responses has revealed widespread support for greater consideration of the needs of unpaid carers, and their health and wellbeing. The Scottish government now aims to improve support for carers in a “meaningful and sustainable way”, in consultation with carers. Nicola also spoke about the Social Security Scotland Consultation with regard to the new Scottish Carers Assistance Benefit to replace Carers Allowance. Nicola expects to be sharing more about these consultations in the coming weeks.

**2. IJB Update**

Paul Morris, Clacks Carers Rep on the IJB gave his report:

**Summary of Agenda:**

This was the first meeting of the IJB that myself and Louise Murray (Stirling counterpart) attended. Agenda can be found here: <https://clacksandstirlinghscp.org/about-us/meeting-schedule/>

My broad impression was that the IJB membership appeared to be both knowledgeable and measured in their discussions around agenda items. As it was our first meeting, both Louise and I have only general impressions, which I am sure will improve over time.

- 1 – 5 procedural matters
- 6 – Update from Chief Executive
- 7 – Needs Assessment – there was no paper to consider here.

8 – Budget & Finance – the budget paper noted that there is growing pressure on budgets, primarily from wage increases and inflationary pressures on costs. There was also a recognition that, as the pandemic eases the care service is under greater strain than ever before. The paper noted some implications for IJBs from the Scottish Budget, including:

- NHS Board payments to IJBs must deliver an uplift of 2% over 2021/22 agreed recurring budgets, and make appropriate provision for increased employer national insurance costs.
- The Health and Social care Portfolio will transfer additional funding of £554m to Local Government to support social care and integration, which recognises the recurring commitments on adult social care pay (£10.50 minimum per hour for commissioned services) and on winter planning arrangements (commitments from Winter Funding package with recurrent or non-recurrent elements into 22/23).
- Local Authority social care budgets for allocation to IJBs must be at least £554m greater than 2021/22 recurring budgets.
- The Scottish Government stated that the budget and, specifically the investment in Social Care will support the next steps in the creation of a new National Care Service. The detail of intended approach to this policy implementation is, however, still awaited at this point in time. It is assumed that further detail on this will emerge post publication of the Scottish Government spending review in May 2022.

9 – Planning, Commissioning & Directions – Equipment service review. The IJB was asked to approve the findings of an independent evaluation of provision, to look at a FV-wide single service and create a short life working group to oversee this. I volunteered for the SLWG but haven't yet heard anything.

10 – Performance – this is the performance report on the way services are being delivered in FV.

11 – National & Personal Outcomes – there was no paper to consider here.

12 – Policy & Legislative Requirements – there was discussion around records management by the IJB and the safe storage of papers deemed to be of importance, such as IJB papers and minutes. This will be managed via the NHS archivist function house at the University of Stirling.

13 – Exempt Items

14 – For Noting

15 – AOCB – I don't recall there being any substantive AOCB...

16 – DONM – 23rd March 2022 at 14:00hrs

Thoughts over the first few months in this role as Clacks Carer Rep to the IJB:

- Support levels have been inadequate from the IJB. Neither Louise nor I have had an induction and have had very little support to fulfil the role for the IJB.
- I have met several times with Elizabeth Ramsay, my predecessor, and we are looking to develop a network of support so that we can best capture the views of carers in the area and meet the extensive requirements of the role.

### 3. H&SCP update

Lesley Shaw, Service Improvement Manager, newly in post since November 2021, shared that she is involved in the Locality Plans for Clacks/Stirling Urban/Stirling Rural and how with consultation and engagement, these would shape the new Carers Strategy. She encouraged everyone to look at the H&SCP website <https://clacksandstirlinghscp.org/> and asked anyone who would like to be added to their newsletter mailing list to email her – [shawle@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:shawle@stirling.gov.uk). The website is being updated to enable people to see what is happening at a strategic level, and to include videos from carers and other service users.

Lesley Fulford, Senior Planning Manager, discussed –

- Meeting with Carers Reps to IJB, Paul and Louise, next week to discuss the IJB and what is expected of them. There are five meetings a year. Lesley would be their point of contact for the IJB should they require anything going forward and can support them when required.
- Locality Plans and Strategic Plan are in development. The Strategic Planning Group discussed rolling forward the priorities for a year to allow development of a ten-year plan, with unanimous agreement to proceed proposal to IJB. IJB agreed. The Chair of the Strategic Planning Group read out a statement to the group at their last meeting in February to let them know development was in place for the new strategic plan *“You will as members of the SPG have a range of opportunities to influence, participate and provide content for the new Strategic Commissioning Plan throughout the coming months. Preparation and engagement work is about to commence, and we would value your input as to how you think we should engage with all stakeholders. Based on feedback we will produce a timeline for production of the new plan at the May meeting of the Strategic Planning Group”*
- Carers Strategy - the short breaks statement has been drafted – a Carers Lead will be appointed through the carers investment plan money. They will then lead the implementation of this work.

### 4. Carers Centre Update

Nicola shared news of the Winter Pressures Fund which the Scottish Government has allocated to Carer Centres across Scotland. This fund is to relieve carer financial stress by providing grants for food, gas and electricity bills, winter clothing and transport costs. Eligible carers have been identified through their Adult Carer Support Plan (ACSP) and/or contact with the Citizens Advice Bureau. Funds have to be allocated by the end of March 2022, so a quick turnaround.

We also have been awarded funds from the Mental & Health Wellbeing Fund and are using this to provide monthly lunches for carers with their Cared-For Person (CFP), at Hawkhill Community Centre on the first Tuesday of every month, and at Tullibody Civic Centre on the third Monday of every month. This is in response to carers telling us that they cannot leave the cared-for person at home. This funding will also allow us to provide some Reachout art and craft sessions for carers and their CFP.

Weekly Monday morning Zoom meetings continue and we also have an in-person Carers Group at Hawkhill Community Centre on a Tuesday, which runs alongside a Sporting Memories Mens Group. Willie Bell, Outreach with CAB, also has an open clinic at Hawkhill at this time which carers can access.

Care with Confidence sessions continue and there will be a Focus Group meeting in March to look at planning for the following year and what sessions carers would like to attend.

There was then some discussion within the meeting around whether more formal training could be provided, rather than arts and craft sessions. Nicola clarified that the arts and crafts sessions were provided in response to carer feedback that they would like something that felt like a break during pandemic lockdowns. With the Focus Group we will be able to set priorities for the sessions for the year ahead. Tracy explained the difficulty in getting facilitators, as most sessions still via Zoom, but in future we are looking to provide hybrid sessions – in person and Zoom.

## **5. NHS FV**

Jessie Ann Malcolm shared that she is involved in a review of OT services in the Falkirk area, and has been surprised that many people don't know anything about the Carers Centre, so has been spreading the word. Discussion around many people not recognising themselves as carers and how do we get the word out about the services we can help with. Various suggestions were offered, e.g. Facebook and other social media. It was recognised that having had very little face-to-face contact in any form over the past two years has had an impact. As things open up again, the Carers Centre will be more visible in the community. There are also plans to provide training to H&SCP staff so that they are aware of support available. Diane encouraged everyone to let their GP's know that they were caring for someone.

Jessie Ann also shared the up-to-date Covid/Flu vaccination sessions that are still going on and urged everyone to ensure that Carers were taking these up.

Betty highlighted the Dementia Outreach Team and how it was important that they informed Carers about the service of the carers Centre – basically all health & social care professionals should be recognising carers and telling them about support available via the Carers Centre.

## **6. Carers issues**

A carer had contacted Nicola with regard to an issue with a faulty shower screen. This had been installed by the council, but carer was told it would take 5-8 weeks to repair. Carer was upset that he was told that CFP could just have a "wipe down" in the meantime. Carer went ahead and replaced the screen but the Council have informed him that this will not be refunded. Lesley Fulford from the H&SCP said that this was an operational issue which would have to be taken up with Clacks Council.

Betty asked about MECS (Telecare) and their policy with regard to being a responder – she assumed that MECS staff would respond and not call her to respond. This is agreed when setting up MECS, so Betty was advised to talk with a Manager at MECS to get clear guidance.

## **7. AOB**

Nicola ended the meeting and advised that notes would be distributed later than usual as she was on annual leave for the next two weeks.

The next meeting of Clackmannanshire Carers' Voice will be in May, date to be confirmed. It is hoped that it will take place in person, venue TBA.

## **Appendix**

Slides from Nicola's presentation on National Care Service Consultation:



## NationalCare Service Consultation Outcomes

- Independent Review of Social Care (Feeley Report) published February 2021
- Consultation on formation of a National Care Service took place in autumn 2021.

## Responses to the consultation

- Almost 1300 responses from individuals and organisations
- Analysis of responses published 10 February 22
  - Improving Care for People
  - A National Care Service
  - Reformed Integration Joint Boards: Community Health and Social Care Boards
  - Commissioning of services
  - Regulation
  - Valuing people who work in social care

## Support Planning

- Respondents were almost unanimous that they or their friends, families or carers should be involved in their support planning.
- There was also a majority in agreement with the statement that “decisions about the support I get should be focused on the outcomes I want to achieve to live a full life” (95%).

## Support for Carers

- Right to breaks from caring
  - Around two thirds of respondents thought that there should be a universal right to a break from caring.
  - A majority valued personalised support over a more standardised support package.
  - Around half thought that flexibility and responsiveness were more important than certainty of entitlement.

## National Carers Strategy

- The analysis of responses has revealed widespread support for greater consideration of the needs of unpaid carers, and their health and wellbeing
- A strategy aiming to improve support for carers in a “meaningful and sustainable way” is to be published by the end of spring
- Social care minister Kevin Stewart has announced the Scottish government will engage with unpaid carers to devise the plans

## Another consultation

- Social Security Scotland plan for a Scottish Carers Assistance benefit to replace Carers Allowance
- The benefit will support people providing 35 hours a week or more of care to people who are receiving particular disability benefits, and make extra payments to those caring for more than one person
- The Scottish Carers Assistance consultation, and response form, can be read and downloaded on the [Scottish government website](#). The consultation closes on 23 May.