

**Notes from the Falkirk Carers' Voice meeting
Tuesday 7 June 2022
at The Carers Centre, Falkirk**

Present: Sofia Ali, Shabnam Ahmed, Lorna Blair, Christine Campbell, Margaret Daniels, John Derks, Alex Davidson, Frank Donnelly, Iain Kirkman, George Low, Morven Mack, Elizabeth Ramsey, Brian Spiers, Susan Sherriff, Julie Silcock, David Thornton

In Attendance: Susan Docherty (Chair), Aileen Barclay, Cath Brunton, Jessie-Anne Malcolm, Donna Mulder, Laura McKenzie, Allan Robertson

Apologies: Helen Boyd, Carol Findlay, Donna Laidlaw, Diana Morgan, Anne Williams

Susan welcomed and thanked all in attendance

Carer Issues and Concerns

The Unpaid Carers Ad Campaign was highlighted to remind everyone how unpaid carers have been coping over the last couple of years. Services are still not fully open operational but hopefully there is light at the end of the Tunnel. Susan will pass any feedback to the Health & Social Care Partnership.

Susan S: The length of time it is taking for young people to be assessed is too long. Carers Scotland have been good, but a carer expressed how difficult it is due to CAMHS Waiting Lists and that young people will be into adulthood before being assessed. It seems like a revolving door scenario.

Jessie-Anne explained that it is a crucial service which is overwhelmed but there will be a link to a CAMHS Survey

Action: Send round to Parent Carer Forum

Frank D highlighted difficulties with the CAMHS system, highlighting there need to be an easier way. The discussion moved onto the closure of day centres but queried what is in the community? Frank raised the issue of twice-yearly assessments at the IJB Board. Telephone Support Workers can offer support and links to the wider community.

Social Work are restarting services with Dundas Day Centre. Respite is now available through Thornton Gardens with beds for emergency support, but respite continue to be a big issue for many.? *Numbers of beds? Transport to Day Centre? Grangemouth by car?*

Sophia was keen to hear about more family outings and breaks for carers.

Social Work/Health/Third Sector Update

Jessie Anne Malcolm: Health Update

On 31 May NHS Health Board Meeting proposal for Primary Carer Agreement. Initial need for change approved on 31 May. There are 50 GP practices with 45 buildings and NHS Forth Valley is providing additional 200 Heath HCP, MHN and HSC workers to support GP practices to alleviate waiting lists. Benefits include wider range of services and an improved patient experience. The planning around this will be circulated with the notes.

There will also be a National Treatment Centre with 16 operating theatres within Forth Valley Royal (FVR) Hospital. There will be a new ward prioritised for local carers in relation to hip and knee operations and hopefully an additional 90 staff.

Local patients can now have Cardiac Health Scans at FVR Hospital. This is a mobile unit with high quality imaging which will complement the pre-existing service. It was also noted at the time of the Forum there were lots of people in FVRH with Covid.

Allan Robertson: Social Security Update

Benefits are being devolved to Scotland starting with Young Adults 16-18. Social Security Scotland changes and updates required, and solutions sought. Recruitment to the Team has been required with 4 new members. Pilot areas for the Adult Disability Payment will be Dundee, Perth & Kinross, and North Lanarkshire. Pip will be uploaded, and information transferred over. Terminal illness cases have special rules for those to be fast tracked.

If you have Pension Credit, you don't qualify for Carers Allowance. Retired unpaid carers is a very contentious issue. Next Carers Supplement will be in June, over the next couple of weeks following the Easter weekend cut-off date.

Recruitment of IJB Carer Representative

Integrated Joint Board Meeting will take place on Friday 10th June.

We are seeking a new Carer Representative to attend 4 meetings per year along with some development days. There will be paperwork to be read but this will hopefully be short and simplified as much as possible. If you are interested, then please can you give an outline of your merits in a 200-word statement and the Forum members will be asked to vote.

Carer Representative Training and Updates

Obviously, the more Representatives there are, the better. The meetings are on You Tube and this is an opportunity for you to have your say. Carers are the experts of their own caring experience, and this is important to remember. As a Carer Representative, you are not there for your own benefit but to represent Falkirk Carers' Voices and to be involved in training, meetings and be part of the changes for carers.

AOB

No AOB as the Carers Centre AGM followed this meeting.