

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Acting Director of Social Work Services

Health Improvement and Social Justice Partnership: 17 May 2006

Subject: Care 21 Report – The Future of Unpaid Care in Scotland

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the outcome of the Care 21 Report – The Future of Unpaid Care and outline the key recommendations.

2. Background

Carers Strategy for Scotland

- 2.1.** Since the introduction of our 'Carers Strategy for Scotland' in November 1999, supporting carers has been a health and social care priority for the Scottish Executive. Under the Strategy, the resources available to support carers have risen from £5 million a year in 1999/2000 to £23 million. This has enabled councils to improve their local services for carers, mainly by investing in carer centres which offer advice, support and training for carers but also through the provision of more short breaks for carers. Importantly, the Strategy also introduced significant new legislative rights for carers, including measures that will engage the NHS more in identifying and supporting carers.

Care 21 Project

- 2.2** The Care 21 report was commissioned by the Scottish Executive, Care 21, a social care innovation unit within the Social Work Services Policy Division. The project aim is to find ways to improve the quality of support for carers in Scotland over the next 10 years and beyond. The Care 21 project explores innovatory practice in other countries and predicts future supply and demand in providing care for people. The study is the first of its kind in Europe and the report has major significance for carers in Scotland and for the future of unpaid caring. The study has resulted in twenty-two recommendations not just aimed at the Scottish Executive, but also for the Westminster government, NHS Scotland, local authorities, health boards, and statutory and voluntary sectors and carers organisations. Lewis McDonald, Deputy Minister for Health and Community Care, launched the report 30 September 2005.

3.0 Methodology

- 3.1** In order to provide a complete picture of issues faced by unpaid carers a comprehensive range of research methods were used and are as listed below. A Stakeholder Steering Group overseeing progress, received interim

results and acted as a panel of experts to generate recommendations, promoting the project through various networks, and acting as a critical friend.

- Review of existing research.
- National household survey.
- 'Voices of Carers'.
- Delphi survey.
- Economic Modelling Tool.
- Project website.
- Future Scenarios – an important output of the exercise is to produce a number of scenarios or plausible futures.

4. Care 21 Recommendations

- 4.1** It is anticipated that the recommendations within the report will consolidate existing thinking on support for unpaid carers, whilst also creating new solutions for the future and will require to be implemented nationally by the Scottish Executive.
- 4.2** At a local level, however, the West Dunbartonshire Joint Future Partnership Local Carers Strategy is already well established. Over the coming months the Carers Strategy Group will work together to dovetail the Care 21 recommendations with the local strategy.
- 4.3** The overall aim of the group will be to produce a development plan for implementation by all partners which will reflect real and positive outcomes for carers in West Dunbartonshire in line with Care 21. This should also avoid any duplication of effort work and close any gaps in local policy and planning.
- 4.4** A summary report of the twenty-two recommendations is attached in appendix 1 and a full 275-page report can be found online at www.opm.co.uk/scottishcarers/paper.htm.

5 Personnel Issues

- 5.1** There are currently no personnel implications.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1** Many of the recommendations detailed in the report relate to change in practice or culture. The purpose of the report was not to cost, but to highlight to the Scottish Executive where additional resource may be required. Nevertheless, some of the recommendations cannot be considered as 'cost neutral' and will have associated resource implications. A Scottish Executive response to the Care 21 report is expected in April 2006.

7. Recommendations

7.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and request:

- the Acting Director provides regular reports to Committee on progress made.

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Background Papers: The Future of Unpaid Care in Scotland, February 2006.

Wards Affected: All wards will be covered by this policy development.