

Steering Group for Development of revised National Carers Strategy for Scotland

Draft Remit

1. The Steering Group will lead the development of the revised National Carers Strategy for Scotland. This work will be informed by a review of progress against the recommendations of the Care 21 Report, input from stakeholders and on developments in other relevant policy areas. In drafting the Strategy, the Steering Group will take an outcomes-focused approach.

2. The Steering Group will aim to ensure that the Strategy delivers the following aims/outcomes. The Strategy should:

- Reflect the needs of unpaid carers, recognising the specific needs of different groups of carers;
- Promote positive outcomes for unpaid carers and those they care for;
- Highlight the main issues for unpaid carers – as identified by carers;
- Promote awareness and understanding of unpaid carers across a range of services;
- Promote delivery of personalised support to carers;
- Develop short-term and long-term priorities for unpaid carer support for all relevant services;
- Support and inform the development of local carers' support services, maintaining a partnership focus;
- Focus on the outcomes for carers, identified in the framework developed by the National Carer Organisations and the Joint Improvement Team (as set out in the paper: *The National Carers Organisations: Positive Outcomes for Carers*); and
- Include a focus on monitoring the implementation of the Strategy.

3. The work will include a focus on the impact of relevant policies from across the Scottish Government on unpaid carers. This includes (but not exclusively):

- Personalisation Agenda;
- Changing Lives;
- Shifting the Balance of Care;
- Patients Rights Bill;
- Self-Directed Support;
- Fundamental review of older people's policy;
- Policies to help reduce poverty;

The work will also include a focus on reserved matters which impact on unpaid carers in Scotland.

4. In drafting the revised Carers Strategy, the Steering Group will wish to be mindful of the main priority areas identified in the Care 21 Report:

- Carer Health;
 - Carer Training;
 - Respite and Short Breaks;
 - Young carers (section being developed by Young Carers Steering group).
5. In addition, the Group will wish to consider issues such as:
- Personalisation of services;
 - Carers Assessment and access to services;
 - Procurement of carer support services;
 - Provision of information to carers;
 - Carers in Employment;
 - Carer centre support/funding;
 - Equality / accessibility of information and support to carers;
 - Research / analytical needs;
 - The impact of demographic change.
6. The Group will develop proposals on short-term and long-term priorities for consideration in Spending Review 2011-14. Following Ministerial consideration of these proposals, the Group will draft the National Carers Strategy for Scotland, taking forward the agreed proposals.

Process

7. The Steering Group will decide and agree a process for the development of the Carers Strategy, This will include identifying areas where work is required to be taken forward by separate working groups and assisting with the establishment and work of these groups.

Governance

8. The proposals and the short and long term priorities will be required to be agreed at the joint COSLA/Scottish Government Ministerial Strategy Group, which is chaired by the Minister for Public Health and Sport. Matters relating to LAs will need to be agreed by COSLA politicians. The final version of the Strategy will require Ministerial approval, with agreement from COSLA, prior to publication.

Timescale

9. The Group will be required to complete its brief by the end of 2009 (early 2010 if the Strategy goes out to public consultation). An Equality Impact Assessment on the Strategy will be required before it is issued for publication/public consultation. The proposals for the Spending Review 2011-14 should be completed by June 2009.