

Clackmannanshire

2005 -2008

Strategy for Carers

&

ACTION PLANS

2005-2006-2007

**A strategy prepared by
Clackmannanshire Council in
partnership with NHS Forth Valley,
Carers and Carers Organisations**

SECTION 1 MAIN THEMES - WHAT IS IN THE STRATEGY ?

The importance of supporting carers, and their valued role in a partnership approach to community care, has increasing recognition in Government policy and in the new legislation for carers. National guidance sets out six main themes for the development of a local strategy and for developing plans, services and support for carers.
(Further guidance about developing the strategy is provided in Section 4, page 26)

Theme 1 IDENTIFYING CARERS :

It is estimated in national statistics that there are 6000 carers in Clackmannanshire. Only a small percentage of carers have been in touch with the organisations which provide support and services in the Clackmannanshire area. We need to make sure that existing and new carers are identified and offered support and we need to find ways of reaching "hidden" carers.

Theme 2 ASSESSING CARER NEEDS :

All carers have a right to an assessment of their needs and of their ability to provide care. The purpose of an assessment is to make sure that carers get the help that they need to carry on caring and that people are properly cared-for. Under new legislation, local authority and health services have a duty to inform carers of their right to an assessment. Eligible carers are those who provide substantial and regular amounts of care to someone. This includes young carers.

Theme 3 PROVIDING AND SHARING INFORMATION :

Good quality information is the main issue for carers. Information needs to be easily accessible, accurate, available at the right time and responsive to individual needs. Without it, carers are not able to make the right choices to enable them to have control of their lives and to get the support and services that they need.

Theme 4 INVOLVING AND CONSULTING CARERS :

To effectively plan for carers within the provision of health and social care services, we recognise that carers' own views provide the key information in the development of a carers strategy. While carers are consulted individually in the assessment process, the representative voice of carers through groups and collective views about specific care group needs are considered to be an important part of planning in partnership.

Theme 5 PROVIDING RESPONSIVE AND FLEXIBLE SERVICES :

There is increasing recognition of the role of carers in supporting people to stay in their own homes and of the importance of providing flexible and responsive supports and services to enable them to continue caring. The resources provided through health, social services and the voluntary sector need to be provided in a coordinated and creative way.

Theme 6 PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR CARERS :

Support for carers is about acknowledging the wider issues for carers in terms of their physical and emotional health and well being, social needs, housing and financial worries, and also acknowledging the impact on carers of the changing needs of the person being cared-for.

SECTION 2 FUNDING OVERVIEW

This chart outlines the sources of funding for the support of carers and carers groups

AREA	Organisation / Activity	Source
Residential Respite	Community Care Purchasing North (Hillfoots) South (Alloa)	Clackmannanshire Social Services
Respite Provisions	Hilcrest Drive (operating cost) Tay Vallah Marchside Court	Clackmannanshire Social Services
Child Care	Temporary Foster Placements Who Cares	Clackmannanshire Social Services
Princess Royal Trust for Carers	Carer Support	Clackmannanshire Social Services
	Falkirk Carers Centre and Alloa Carers	NHS Forth Valley Clackmannanshire Social Services
Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme	Child Care Adult Care	Clackmannanshire Social Services
Independent Living Services	Family Support	Clackmannanshire Social Services
Day Services and other support	Joint Dementia Initiative Alzheimers Scotland SAMH Scottish Association for Mental Health Share the Care (Adults and Children)	MISG Mental Health Specific Funds
Local Area Coordinator Transition Worker	Learning Disability Additional Support for Learning	Clackmannanshire Social Services

3.5.1. PROVIDING RESPONSIVE AND FLEXIBLE SERVICES : What we are planning to do

We will record carer needs from assessments and will monitor services provided in order to identify gaps and future needs

We will consult with the Young Carers Steering Group on the development of policies and procedures

We will continue to develop a range of respite support, care and short break options

We will continue to work with partners across the local authority, health, voluntary and private sectors to provide more flexible and responsive support

In the development of Community Health Partnerships and the new Community Hospital we will ensure that carers are properly represented

We will consult with, and be guided by, carers in developing new initiatives through the Strategy into Action Group

We will continue to implement Direct Payments to facilitate service user and carer choice

SECTION 5 FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS – WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The Carers Strategy into Action Group recognises that although many of the objectives identified after the initial conference in 2000 have been achieved, an ongoing programme of activities and service developments to support carers will be required and will need to be reviewed.

5:1 CONSULTATION OF CARERS.....HOW TO HAVE YOUR SAY

To achieve this the Group will continue to consult with carers through carers support group meetings and carers focus groups. Carers needs will also continue to be identified through assessments of service users and through carers assessments. Representation of carers and of carer needs will be considered in terms of wider consultation and future planning.

The discussions at the Carers Event in November 2004 assisted the Group in establishing the objectives, actions, projects and leads. These actions are incorporated into planning processes across adult and children's services and in health and local authority planning.

Individual carers and organisations representing the needs of carers are also invited to comment on this strategy in section 6.

5:2 GET INVOLVED..... AND HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The experience and expertise developed by carers gives them a unique understanding of the current and future needs and wishes of the people they are caring for. Involving carers in the planning of services to meet their needs and the needs of those they are caring for is therefore a necessary part of community care planning.

At present there are carer representatives on the Carers Strategy into Action Group, the Clackmannanshire Local Action Group for learning disability services, the Framework Implementation Group for mental health services and children's services planning groups. However, more carer involvement is required and any other carers who would like to get involved and make a difference to the services they and those they are caring for receive would be welcomed.

Any carer who is interested in getting involved will be supported and given appropriate training to ensure they feel able to contribute effectively at meetings. The frequency of meetings varies from 6 weekly to quarterly, they tend to be held during the day and last between 1 – 2 hours. Alternative care and transport can be provided to allow carers to attend meetings and any training or support sessions they may require.

The carers who are currently involved have benefited from their experience. In addition to feeling they have made a difference to the services provided for carers and those they care for, they have learned new skills, met new people and developed their

