

Carers Ministerial Advisory Group Meeting

MS Teams

Thursday 18 January 2024

09:30 – 11:30

Minutes / Actions

Julie Morgan	Deputy Minister for Social Services
Andy Pithouse	Special Advisor to Deputy Minister for Social Services
Alwyn Jones	Chair
Denise Moultrie	Welsh Government
Taryn Stephens	Welsh Government
Mark Price	Welsh Government
Bobbie-Jo Haaroff	Unpaid carer
Jayne Newman	Unpaid carer
Mico Zenati-Parsons	Young carer and Young Carers Advisory Board
Rachel Clement	Children in Wales
Kate Cabbage	Director for Wales for Carers Trust
Kath Proudfoot	Carers Officers Learning and Improvement Network
Rachel Williams	Care Alliance
Grace Coppock	All Wales Forum
David Pritchard	Social Care Wales
Valerie Billingham	Office of Older Peoples Commissioner
Vanessa Webb	Swansea University
Jenny Oliver	Head of People's Experience Cwm Taff Morgannwg UHB
David Watkins	Cwm Taff Morgannwg UHB
Naheed Ashraf	Aneurin Bevan UHB
Pennie Muir	Regional Project Support Hywel Dda UHB
Angela Hughes	Cardiff and Vale UHB
Avril Bracey	Carmarthenshire County Council
Amy Hawkins	Swansea City Council
Alyson Hoskins	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Naomi Harper	Flintshire County Council
Iain McMillan	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Cllr Jane Tremlett	Carmarthenshire County Council

Apologies

Claire Morgan	Carers Wales
Kate Young	All Wales Forum
Jon Day	Social Care Wales
Sean O'Neill	Children in Wales
Victoria Lloyd	Age Cymru
Elizabeth Flowers	Office of Children's Commissioner
Kim Dolphin	Carers Officers Learning and Improvement Network
Marie Davies	Powys Teaching Health Board
Claire Roche	Powys Teaching Health Board
Ffion Johnson	Betsi Cadwallader UHB

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting including the newly appointed young carer, Mico Zenati-Parsons.

Deputy Minister for Social Services

The Deputy Minister for Social Services spoke of her attendance at recent events to celebrate Carers Rights Day on 23 November including how important it was for her to hear from unpaid carers at the online event organised by Carers Trust Wales.

The Deputy Minister also spoke of her attendance at the Carers Wales Conference and the Cardiff and Vale Unpaid Carers Assembly, as well as meeting with unpaid carers who have benefited from the Short Breaks Fund and the positive impacts this had for them.

The Deputy Minister welcomed Mico Zenati-Parsons as the newest member of the Ministerial Advisory Group. Alongside Bobbie-Jo Haaroff and Jayne Newman their lived experience provides an invaluable contribution to the work of the group. Mico is also a member of the Young Carers Advisory Board and the Deputy Minister was pleased to see links being established between these groups.

The Deputy Minister noted work by Welsh Government and local authorities around the Young Carer ID card. Meetings have been held to establish what has worked well and to understand some of the issues around roll-out and how to work together to raise awareness of young carers in education.

Take up of the Short Breaks Fund and the Carers Support Fund overseen by Carers Trust Wales was recognised.

The Deputy Minister left the meeting.

2. Actions from the last meeting of 25 September

Group feedback

One group member noted that not all local authorities were engaged in the Association of Directors of Social Services Cymru (ADSSC) Rapid Review of carers' rights, as a sampling approach was taken. The group member felt the report may not be fully representative and believed health boards should have also been involved.

Welsh Government officials to feedback at a later date on action point on liaison with Education department ensuring the views of parent carers are represented on appropriate groups and taken into account.

A group member challenged the term 'hard to reach' referring to black and minority ethnic communities in the published minutes of the September 2023 meeting. The Chair accepted this, and the group agreed this would not be used as appropriate

Action point:

An action from last meeting is carried over: Welsh Government officials will raise with colleagues in Welsh Government Education department to ensure the views of parent carers are represented at the appropriate groups / taken into account.

3. Carers Alliance updates and questions

Kate Cabbage

Kate advised Carers UK State of Caring 2023 reports had been published for Health, Finance and Employment.

[State of Caring 2023: The impact of caring on health in Wales | Carers UK](#)
[State of Caring in Wales: The impact of caring on finances in Wales | Carers UK](#)
[Carers' employment rights in Wales today, tomorrow and in the future. | Carers UK](#)

Carers Rights Day on 23 November was highlighted and it was confirmed that the 'Track the Act' survey is now available on the Carers Wales website. Carers Wales will also be holding their Carers Assembly on 19 February.

4. Update from Task and Finish group Meeting 9 January

Denise Moultrie

There was a broad discussion of the findings of the Rapid Review report and a mapping of findings to the existing priorities of the national Carers Strategy. The task is now to agree specific focus for the work of the Task and Finish group. It is suggested the initial focus could be national work on carers' needs assessments.

Early information, advice and assistance for unpaid carers was also referred to as vital and could also be considered in the work of the group.

Outcomes from today's discussion on the Rapid Review would also be incorporated.

A member reminded the group of the importance of co-production and the need to speak to the right people. The group was reminded of the importance of considering people from all communities when undertaking its work.

The Task and Finish group will reporting to the Ministerial Advisory Group. Three monthly updates will be provided and shared before meetings. It was agreed that the work of the group remain succinct. One comment put forward was to be mindful of terminology used by professionals in introducing Carers Needs Assessments to avoid any confusion over what this entails.

5. Welsh Government updates and questions

Denise Moultrie

Young Carer ID card

There have been some issues identified with embedding the use of the Young Carer ID card. As a result, three meetings have been held with a number of local authorities to look at areas of good practice and to understand the challenges of implementation. This has also been raised at the Young Carers Advisory Board. Carers Trust Wales are supporting this work. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

Group discussion acknowledged that some young carers do not wish to be identified as they may be concerned about perceived consequences, stigmatisation and trust issues with those in authority. The group agreed it was good to hear feedback from a young carer perspective.

The group referred back the previous discussion on carers needs assessments and noted the uncertainty by some carers as to what is expected from an assessment. The importance of advance communication by professionals about the process can alleviate this anxiety.

The variation of work for young carers across local authorities was noted. The group agreed recognising and celebrating equality inclusion and diversity of all people should be intrinsic to our work.

Young Carers' Festival

The Young Carers Festival was held in August with 350 young carers attending over three days. The event was well received and the Deputy Minister for Social Services had a positive experience during her visit. Welsh Government is hoping to support the 2024 festival.

Carer Aware

Discussions have been held with Carers Trust Wales and Carers Wales on their national plan and roll-out for next year. Officials in Welsh Government have also held a workshop to consider this area of work from a behavioural science perspective.

Older carers

Discussion have also been held with Age Cymru and Carers Trust Wales about the focus of this workstream for 2024-2025. This may include additional support for GP surgeries to identify and signpost unpaid carers.

Short Breaks/ Carer Support Fund

Regional Partnership Boards have submitted their six monthly reports on the short Breaks scheme.

One group member asked if the group had been circulated the Strategic Equality Plan 2024-2028 consultation. Officials confirmed it had not.

Action: Welsh Government to make enquiries on this matter.

The £1million funding for supporting carers at the point of admission and discharge of the cared for person was raised. It was confirmed that the Regional Intergration Fund, which is the funding stream for this work, is in place for five years (2022-2027).

6. Revised terms of reference

The revised terms of reference had been circulated in advance for discussion today.

The Chair provided an update on a discussion with Welsh Government on the tenure for the Chair role which would be a three-year period. As a result, we will plan for a successor from March 2025. that the revised terms of reference include the new post of Vice-chair. The ambition will be to have professional and unpaid carers represented across the Chair and Vice chair roles.

A member raised the need for clarity regarding the role of unpaid carers on the MAG and Task and Finish groups.

Action point:

Revised Terms of Reference will be circulated again to the group before the next meeting in March.

7. In person meeting

The Chair suggested an in-person meeting possibly in June. This would be a longer session to discuss priorities in more depth. The group were in agreement but mindful of timings and pressures of commitments on unpaid carers

Action point:

Welsh Government to look into arrangements for an in-person meeting in June

8. Agenda items for the next meeting

Any items for the next meeting in March to be forwarded onto Welsh Government officials.

9. AOB

No other business noted.

10. Date for next meeting

The next meeting is to be held on 11 March.