

Carers Ministerial Advisory Group Meeting

MS Teams

Tuesday 11 March 2024

13:00 – 15:00

Attendees

Julie Morgan	Deputy Minister for Social Services
Andy Pithouse	Special Advisor to Deputy Minister for Social Services
Alwyn Jones	Chair
Denise Moultrie	Welsh Government
Mark Price	Welsh Government
Joseph Wilton	Welsh Government
Bobbie-Jo Haarhoff	Unpaid carer
Jayne Newman	Unpaid carer
Mico Zenati-Parsons	Young carer and Young Carers Advisory Board
Rachel Clement	Children in Wales
Kath Proudfoot	Carers Officers Learning and Improvement Network
Kim Dolphin	Carers Officers Learning and Improvement Network
Claire Morgan	Carers Wales
Valerie Billingham	Office of Older Peoples Commissioner
Vanessa Webb	Swansea University
Diane Seddon	Bangor University
David Watkins	Cwm Taff Morgannwg UHB
Naheed Ashraf	Aneurin Bevan UHB
Pennie Muir	Regional Project Support Hywel Dda UHB
Marie Davies	Powys Teaching Health Board
Amy Hawkins	Swansea City Council
Alyson Hoskins	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Naomi Harper	Flintshire County Council
Natasha James	Vale of Glamorgan Council

Apologies

Taryn Stephens	Welsh Government
Kate Cabbage	Director for Wales for Carers Trust
Rachel Williams	Care Alliance
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
Jenny Oliver	Head of People's Experience Cwm Taff Morgannwg UHB
Claire Roche	Powys Teaching Health Board
Ffion Johnson	Betsi Cadwallader UHB
Angela Hughes	Cardiff and Vale UHB
Avril Bracey	Carmarthenshire County Council
Iain McMillan	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Cllr Jane Tremlett	Carmarthenshire County Council

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Deputy Minister for Social Services

The Deputy Minister for Social Services confirmed funding for the Young Carers Festival in August 2024 and spoke of attendance in previous years and the value of the event to support young carers. The Deputy Minister confirmed she will be attending the Carers Trust Wales event on 13 March to celebrate Young Carers Day. The workstream to review the awareness and uptake of the Young Carers ID Card is ongoing.

The Deputy Minister acknowledged the celebration of Carers Trust 50th anniversary since the establishment of its founder charity. The Deputy Minister referenced their immensely valuable work in supporting unpaid carers. The work of the Rapid Review Task and Finish Group in improving access to Information Advice and Assistance (IAA) and Carer Needs Assessments was acknowledged.

The Deputy Minister left the meeting.

3. Actions from the last meeting of 18 January 2024

Group feedback

Denise Moultrie will provide a revised Terms of Reference before the end of March. Updates were provided on the previous actions. The in-person meeting has now been scheduled for June and invites have been issued. Venue details need to be finalised and a revised invite will be issued. The spelling of the surname of a member of the group will be corrected.

The note of the last meeting was then agreed.

Action: Revised Terms of Reference will be circulated again to the group by the end of March.

Action: Updated invite to be issued for June meeting.

Action: Name spelling to be corrected

4. Update from Task & Finish Group

Denise Moultrie

Update provided on the work of the Task and Finish Group and the proposed survey to issue to local authorities. This survey is aimed at three levels (Head of Service/senior leader; Service manager/team manager; practitioner/carers officer) within the local authorities to look at information advice and assistance (IAA) and Carers Needs Assessments. Input from Health Boards will be discussed separately.

Group feedback

How carers are recorded on Health Board systems was raised as GPs and healthcare staff also signpost carers. Inclusivity was discussed together with awareness of the number of surveys issued to the local authorities and to be mindful to include community groups who provide support for unpaid carers. Important to take advantage of opportunities to seek the views of a wide range of unpaid carers, particularly those who might not be connected into established carers networks.

Terminology for the survey that will be completed by local authorities was also noted and reference to the term 'carer'. The Track the Act survey was referenced as an existing mechanism to ensure the voice of the unpaid carer is heard, and it was confirmed that hard copies of the survey are available and not just on-line.

5. Local Authority Census Data

Joseph Wilton

Joseph Wilton provided an update on the Ministerial Advisory Group action for the creation of a census for unpaid carers. Draft guidance has been actioned using the adult and children's census as a guide and will go out to local authorities by the end of the year. This will then be trialled and tested and data collected in the financial year 2025/2026 to report back in 2026/2027. This will help to improve systems and data collection of unpaid carers data held by the local authorities in Wales.

Group feedback

Joseph Wilton confirmed that the draft guidance was not ready to be shared as yet. Demographics discussed and scope of data collection and local authority consistency. Compilation of 2021 data collection for carers highlighted as being of a higher level than 2011 census data. Joseph Wilton spoke of collection of census data and support by local authorities in providing data. Timescales were then discussed with consistency and quality of information.

6. Update on Young Carer ID cards

Mark Price

A brief background to the young carer ID card was provided. Mark Price then updated the group on discussions with a sample of local authorities held in mid-January to look at best practice and barriers to awareness of the ID card. A paper has now been prepared and Welsh Government are looking to extend the conversation to all local authorities. Awareness of pharmacies around the ID card was also highlighted and next steps on this approach. Areas such as the age limit of the card, discounts, opportunities to engage and developing trust with young carers was also addressed. Mark Price also spoke of engagement with Carers Trust Wales and Welsh Government Education officials as part of this work as well as with Mico Zenati-Parsons from the Young Carers Advisory Group. There will be potential to relaunch the ID card in the summer.

Group Feedback

One comment put forward was promoting the ID card in primary schools and not just secondary schools. The use of the young carer ID cards was also discussed as well as the benefits of having this card and impacts. Another comment made was awareness in schools and differing advice between local authority areas. Promotion of the card via Third Sector engagement also noted with a discussion on discounts. There was also a concern that message around young carer ID cards was blurred. Dialogue was also had if this should be a national card. The Chair asked that the young carer ID card be picked up again in the next meeting.

Linkage with health boards highlighted and as part of discussion on pharmacies it was asked if GP surgeries could be surveyed as well. Publicity via Community Pharmacists Wales noted and that guides had been produced for GP surgeries and pharmacies.

Action: Young Carers Card to be included as agenda item in the next meeting.

7. Carers Alliance update

Claire Morgan

Claire Morgan reported on actions being taken forward by members including the Wales Ambulance Service on learning and development for paramedics. The NHS Rare Diseases Group also provided a presentation on the new NHS Executive Structure and support for carers. A presentation was also delivered by Carers Wales on the Carers Leave Act.

Group Feedback

Claire Morgan was asked by a member of the group to provide contact details for the Rare Diseases Group.

Action: Claire Morgan to provide contact details as requested.

8. Update on Carers' Leave Act

Claire Morgan

The Act will come into effect from 6 April 2024. Details on the Act can be found on the Carers Wales website - [Carers Leave Act | Carers Wales \(carersuk.org\)](https://www.carersuk.org)

Carers Wales are holding a series of webinars to help raise awareness and promote the introduction of the Act in Wales. The webinars have been well attended with good feedback. Written information has also been produced. A celebration event is arranged for the Senedd in April. This will be attended by employers and other stakeholders.

9. In-person MAG meeting 4 June – ideas for the day

Chair

The Chair put forward suggested agenda items such as the Young Carer ID cards and the work of the Task and Finish Group.

Group feedback

Other ideas included a review of the Strategy and Delivery Plan for Carers, to look at examples of good practice from the local authority, co-produced assessments formats as well as hospital discharge funding. The meeting will also provide an excellent opportunity to strengthen communication within the group.

10.A.O.B

In the previous meeting, the group discussed it would no longer use the term 'hard to reach'. There was some discussion about other potential terminology and the Chair agreed this needed further consideration.

11. Next Meeting

Date of next meeting 4 June.