

## Meeting Note – Carers’ Panel

<b>Title</b>	Carers’ Panel
<b>Venue</b>	Zoom
<b>Date</b>	06/07/21
<b>Attendees</b>	Anne Bisset, Jacki Aston, Helen Wedgwood, Kirsteen Powell (CoEL)
<b>Apologies</b>	Agnes Stevenson

### Agenda

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- Review of previous meeting note
  - Update on actions – dates for invited speakers
- Feedback on “Shifting Balance of Care” Virtual Engagement Event
- Carer engagement opportunities/ hot topics
- Any other business (AoB)

### Summary of discussions

#### Review of previous meeting note

Helen asked what Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) planned to do with feedback from Panel members on Breaks from Caring (respite) discussed at last meeting. Kirsteen explained HSCP is expecting further funding from Scottish Government (sum not yet known) and is starting conversations on how the money might be used to support carers in the wake of the pandemic. CoEL will be seeking wider views on the support required by carers to access a break from caring in annual survey later this summer. Ashley Hardy, Strategy Officer with HSCP, will speak to Panel members directly in September, and can answer further questions then. Anne wanted to ask Ashley if Carers Act Funding was ever allocated to another budget heading within the HSCP (technical term “vired”).

No changes were made to meeting note text – note approved.

#### Dates for invited speakers

Kirsteen highlighted the dates for the next two Panel meetings with invited speakers:

- Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug, 2 to 3:30 pm – David Binnie, Carer Representative, Integrated Joint Board
- Tue 7<sup>th</sup> Sep, 2 to 3:30 pm – Ashley Hardy, Strategy Officer, HSCP

#### CoEL strategy development session

Kirsteen encouraged Panel members to take part in strategy development session to create a new business plan for Carers of East Lothian (COEL) on Thu 26<sup>th</sup> Aug. The session will be face-to-face, with venue and times still to be confirmed. All carers registered with CoEL will be contacted directly about the event (by email or post). There will also be a separate online session for carers who would prefer to engage this way.

#### Feedback on Carers Week

Anne held information stall as private individual outside Margiotta in Aberlady on 12/06/21 to raise awareness of support available for unpaid carers. It was a sunny day and the village was very busy. Anne spoke to lots of people, many of whom had caring roles and lived outside of the county. Following the success of this event, Anne plans to hold further information stalls as a private individual in other parts of East Lothian. Jacki suggested holding a stall in North Berwick

during Fringe by the Sea festival. Anne is also going to approach Tesco Haddington. Anne stated that the good weather and busy location were key to the event's success.

#### **Carer Identification**

Panel members discussed problem of carer identification – only a fraction of carers are known to/ accessing support from services in East Lothian. Jacki felt very strongly that GPs should be involved in proactively identifying carers/ maintaining list of patients who have unpaid caring roles. Kirsteen highlighted that CoEL annual survey included questions about a Carers Card to help build local and/or national business case for investment in such a scheme. Anne noted that there needed to be an incentive for carers to sign up for a card/ fill out yet another form.

#### **Feedback on Shifting Balance of Care Engagement Event**

Anne and Agnes attended virtual engagement event on behalf of the Panel. Anne said she felt listened to by the event chair, Fiona Ireland (Deputy Director of Nursing, NHS Lothian). Issues raised included: difficulties accessing the right service at the right time and the need for “one stop shop” number to facilitate this; difficulties securing GP appointments especially at Riverside Practice in Musselburgh; difficulties recruiting paid care staff, securing care packages and accessing respite; and poor transport links to East Lothian Community Hospital. Panel members agreed it would be interesting to see what follow up there was to this event, and if concrete steps were taken to address some of the issues highlighted.

#### **Transfer of benefits from DWP to Social Security Scotland**

Kirsteen highlighted that there will be consultations in the coming months in relation to the benefits being transferred from DWP to Social Security Scotland (SSS) in 2022 – Scottish Carer's Assistance (replacing Carer's Allowance) and Adult Disability Payment (replacing Personal Independent Payment). Jacki raised concerns about the impact this will have on people who are part of the Motability Scheme. There was also a concern that a reduction in the number of face-to-face assessments would result in fewer people being awarded financial support. It was noted that devolution offered the potential for greater accountability but did not automatically deliver better services. Kirsteen agreed to find out more about the proposed changes and the rationale behind them from Lisa McIlwraith (CoEL Welfare Rights Coordinator) and/or Social Security Scotland to share with Panel members.

#### **Next steps/ Key decisions**

- Dates of next two Panel meetings with guest speakers confirmed
- Panel members will try to attend COEL strategy development session

#### **Actions**

<b>Who</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>By when</b>
Kirsteen	Research and summarise changes to benefits being transferred from DWP to SSS in 2020 including rationale for reduction in face-to-face assessments. Update Panel members.	31/07/2021
Kirsteen	Find phone number for Haddington Farmers Market to see if information stall over summer/autumn is possible – no response to emails to date.	31/07/2021

## **Appendix 1 – Carer Engagement Opportunities & Hot Topics**

### **Carer engagement opportunities – July 2021**

#### **Immediate (next 4 – 6 weeks)**

##### **#1 Consultation on the Carer’s Allowance Supplement Bill**

The Social Justice and Social Security Committee of the Scottish Parliament have launched a written consultation on the Carer’s Allowance Supplement Bill (which is needed to authorise extra Covid-19 payment to carers in December 2021). Carers are invited to submit their views via link below:

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/ssc/carers-allowance-supplement/>.

The Coalition of Carers in Scotland (CoCIS) will be conducting a short poll of carers’ views on 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> July to feed into the consultation. I will circulate the link to this poll once it is released. It will also be publicised via CoEL’s online channels.

##### **#2 Meeting with Carer Representative on Integrated Joint Board (IJB) – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August**

David Binnie, Carer Representative on Integrated Joint Board, has agreed to speak to the panel about his role and how carers can effectively influence services and campaign for change. I have provisionally agreed a date of Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2 to 3:30 pm on Zoom, for this meeting (which would also be the Carers’ Panel for August).

##### **#3 COEL Strategy Development Session – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> August**

CoEL will be holding a face-to-face strategy development session with carers (observing all appropriate infection control measures) on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> August. The time and the venue are still to be confirmed. The discussions will be facilitated by an external consultant Peter Hill.

The views of stakeholders (carers, staff, trustees etc.) plus our contractual commitments to the Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP) will feed into the creation of a new business plan – the document that sets out how CoEL as an organisation intends to develop and deliver carer support services. A copy of our previous business plan (2015 – 2020) can be accessed [here](#)

There will also be an online strategy development session for carers. The date and time of this alternative session is still to be confirmed.

#### **Medium term (next 3 months)**

##### **#1 Meeting with Ashley Hardy, Strategy Officer for Carers at the HSCP – Tues 7<sup>th</sup> September**

Ashley Hardy has agreed to speak to Carers’ Panel. She will cover Carers Act Funding and carers’ rep opportunities within HSCP. Ashley would also like to hear Panel members’ views of Carers Strategy (see link below), which is due to be updated and refreshed this year.

[https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/28027/east\\_lothian\\_carers\\_strategy](https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/28027/east_lothian_carers_strategy)

If you have any other issues you would like Ashley to address during this session (bearing in mind we have an hour of her time) please let me know.

## **#2 Consultation on National Care Service**

Later this summer, Scottish Government are going to start consulting on the legislation for a National Care Service. (They committed to doing it within the first 100 days of the new parliament) There should be opportunities for people with lived experience including carers to become involved in this process. I will highlight opportunities as they arise.

### **Longer term (next 6 months or timeline still to be confirmed)**

#### **#1 Carers' Rights Day (Thu 25<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021)**

Building on the Carers Hustings, I wanted to flag Carers' Rights Day as a possible opportunity to invite political representatives for East Lothian to answer questions from carers. Paul McLennan (SNP) is the East Lothian Constituency MSP but Craig Hoy (Conservative) and Martin Whitfield were both elected as MSPs for the South Scotland region.

#### **#2 Consultation on Scottish Carer's Assistance**

Scottish Carer's Assistance will replace Carer's Allowance (hopefully at some point in 2022 – transfer from DWP to Social Security Scotland has been delayed by pandemic). There will be calls to seek carers' views on what the Scottish Carer's Assistance should look like. I will highlight them as and when more information becomes available.

### **Hot Topics in June 2021**

Topics raised by COEL staff on behalf of carers during June 2021.

#### **#1 Access to GP appointments**

Some carers are having difficulty accessing GP appointments esp. at Riverside Medical Practice, Musselburgh. This has been a long-standing problem made worse by the pandemic.

Update on previous hot topics:

Communicating with ELCH ward staff (Apr 21) – Chief Nurse has informed Jenny that all wards now have a tablet to facilitate communication between patients and families.