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**To: Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board**

**On: 24 June 2016**

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**Report by: Chief Officer**

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**Heading: Carer Champion**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 Renfrewshire HSCP acknowledges the significant role carers play and recognises them as partners in the delivery of care. Supporting carers is a key priority at a local and national level. According to the recent 'Scotland's Carers'<sup>1</sup> publication 17,760 people in Renfrewshire identify themselves as carers.
- 1.2 Renfrewshire's Carer Strategy 2013-16, recognised the good work and the support available locally to support carers in their caring role, but acknowledged that more needs to be done. The establishment of the role of Carer Champion for Renfrewshire will provide a focus for promoting the carer agenda, which will be set out in the new Renfrewshire Carer Strategy, across Renfrewshire.
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## **2. Recommendations**

Integration Joint Board members are asked to approve:

- The establishment of the role of Carer Champion for Renfrewshire.
  - The proposal that the role of Carer Champion should have autonomy from the Integrated Joint Board.
  - The proposal that the Provost fulfil the role of Carer Champion.
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## **3. Background**

### Local Context

- 3.1 The Renfrewshire Carer Strategy 2013-16 acknowledges the significant role carers play in supporting the people they care for and recognises carers as partners in the delivery of care. According to the recent 'Scotland's Carers'<sup>2</sup> publication 17,760 (10%) people in Renfrewshire identify themselves as carers, however the census also demonstrates a considerable shift towards high intensity caring based on the number of hours each week that people provide unpaid care.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/03/1081>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/03/1081>

- 3.1.1 The Strategy recognises the significant amount of work being driven locally by a partnership which includes local carers, Renfrewshire Carers Centre, Renfrewshire HSCP, the Council, and other local voluntary organisations. Key developments and achievements include:
- Supporting the identification young carers in schools;
  - Supporting young adult carers as they move into further education;
  - Support for early identification and better information for carers;
  - Support for specialised carer support groups;
  - Increased respite provision.

### National Policy Context

- 3.2 The Carers (Scotland) Act received Royal Assent on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016. The Act covers a range of areas relating to supporting carers including a number of new duties and requirements which impact on the HSCP. The Act:
- changes the definition of a carer to a carer is “an individual who provides or intends to provide care for another individual”.
  - gives local authorities a duty to prepare an adult care and support plan (ACSP) or young carer statement (YCS) for anyone they identify as a carer, or for any carer who requests one. The ACSP and YCS replace the existing Carer Assessment.
  - gives local authorities a duty to provide support to carers that meet local eligibility criteria.
  - requires local authorities and NHS boards to involve carers in carers’ services.
  - requires local authorities to establish and maintain advice and information services for carers.
  - introduces the requirement for a timescale for preparing a support plan for the carer of a terminally ill person.
  - provides a joint duty for both health boards and local authorities to create local carer strategies.
  - introduces the requirement for carers to be involved in the hospital discharge procedures of the person they care for.
  - provides a requirement for an adult carer support plan or young carer statement to include emergency plans.
  - provides a requirement for Scottish Ministers to prepare a Carers Charter.
- 3.3 The Self-directed Support Act introduced a new power to provide support to the carer; support which helps to address the carer’s needs to continue in their caring role. Where such support is provided, the same options should be offered to the carer for their support as are provided to service users.

## Role of Carer Champion

- 3.4 There is a broad network of organisations supporting carers in Renfrewshire and the role of carer champion will not sit in isolation. It is proposed that the role of the Carer Champion will include:
- articulating the collective views of the wider carer population within Renfrewshire and speak on carer issues.
  - being consulted and involved in the development of policies and practice that affect carers.
  - raising the profile of unpaid carers with a view to influencing and developing strategies and policies which will make life better for carers and those they support, including across the HSCP, the Council, and Community Planning.
  - raising the profile of unpaid carers at a national level with the Scottish Government and the range of National Carer Organisations.
  - leading the Carer Strategy Group to develop and implement the new Renfrewshire Carer Strategy and report progress to relevant Boards.
  - publicising initiatives which support carers to continue in their caring role, including the breaks for carers funded through the HSCP's Loudon Trust Fund.
- 3.5 It would be helpful that the Carer Champion was someone who has a recognised profile within the Renfrewshire Community and will be seen to have some independence from the Integrated Joint Board but with an ability to challenge and hold relevant organisations to account. It is therefore proposed that the Renfrewshire Provost would fulfil this criteria in that the role has a strong local profile and is very much about leading and discharging civic duties and bringing together the community around issues of common interest.
- 3.6 Following appointment, there will be the opportunity for the Carer Champion to meet with local carers to discuss any issues they are experiencing relating to their caring role as well as what works well and keeps them supported to continue to care.

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### **Implications of the Report**

1. **Financial** – None.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None.
3. **Community Planning** – None.
4. **Legal** – None.
5. **Property/Assets** – None.
6. **Information Technology** – Managing information and making information available may require ICT input.

7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health & Safety** – None.
9. **Procurement** – None.
10. **Risk** – None.
11. **Privacy Impact** – None. The information to be made available via the Publication Scheme is information which would be disclosed in response to a request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. This therefore would not include Personal Data as defined by the Data Protection Act 1998.

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**List of Background Papers** – None

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