**Carers Panel Provisional Agenda 12.7.23**

*Hybrid meeting Traprain Room and zoom*

*Apologies MS/ LS*

*Attendees: J. Aston/ M. Baxter/ A. Bissett*

**Meeting Agenda**

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| **Summary of actions from previous meeting/ topics to revisit** | Short Breaks statements  Panel were provided responses from Maria Burton. No additional questions were raised.  Think Carer Photographic/ audio input  Panel were asked for suggested dates for photo and audio input for training. Members to email Gemma. Project focus to complete 3 photo sessions +audio and then invite other panel members to participate.  Feedback/ discussion around Carers’ Week  Afternoon tea – 48 attended  Wellbeing afternoon – 24 attended qi gong, 26 attended gong bath  Walk – 12 attended  Rights – 5 carers, 22 professionals  Following feedback was provided:  Members who attended provided individual feedback about their experiences of events that they attended. Gemma to gather feedback from wider pool of carers via Microsoft forms questionnaire.  1 member suggested opportunity to wear name badges is offered to help events to be more welcoming.  1 member raised that the programme of activities were slimmed down from last years. G informed members that there was a larger budget last year due to surplus funds, but the budget this year was more likely to be the norm. Another member shared that they had received feedback from carers that they would have liked to have seen events on every day. G shared that there were in fact events on every day- including carers rights sessions, libraries awareness raising sessions and bigger activity-based sessions Tues – Thurs. Panel were informed of budget for the week and the wider budget for the whole years activities that this comes out of. Panel suggested that budget is quite small to put on larger events and bring carers together and made suggestions that this ought to be increased as this is a very significant week for carers that many look forward to all year. 1 member suggested that this is some carers only paid break in the year. G to raise this with management team and collect wider feedback from carers about the week via Microsoft forms.  Meeting CoEL-Paul Mclennan  Panel were informed that a series of round table meetings focusing on recruitment in care will be held. Round tables will include council, CoEL, EL Works, QMU including a skills agency overview.  Carers Strategy 23-26  Panel were informed that the strategy was approved at end of June by IJB and it is now published online and Maria will schedule annual updates to panel and IJB. Panel welcomed these updates. No questions at this time. |
| **Regular updates from Jess** | Submitted in advance.  No questions at this time. Panel thanked Jess for her update. |
| **Communications and Engagement Coordinator** | Gemma updated the panel about new CoEL appointment - Comms and Engagement Coordinator (Gemma Twells-Davison).   * leading on carer engagement opportunities (including Carers' Panel and wider opportunities for carers to engage in consultation, planning and policy decision making) * continuing to lead on the development of events, workshops and training for carers (including Carers' Week) * leading on communications (including website, newsletter, social media, online forum)   Discussion opened about identifying more of the 20,000 estimated carers in EL and how comms can play a big role in that. |
| **Meeting Martin Whitfield/ Pam Duncan-Glancy** | Information shared with panel about meeting on 23.8.23.  We have been approached by the office of Martin Whitfield MSP who covers East Lothian as part of the South Scotland Region about arranging a visit and discussion between Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP and the Carers’ Panel/ anyone else at CoEL who would be interested in finding out more about her Disabled Children and Young People (Transitions to Adulthood) (Scotland) Bill, which is currently being considered in the Scottish Parliament:  <https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/disabled-children-and-young-people-transitions-to-adulthood-scotland-bill-session-6>.    The request follows a recent discussion with a panel member who expressed an interest in this issue and how parliamentarians can better understand and address these and other important issues for carers (which is great, come forward and tell me if this was you!)  Gemma encouraged panel members to attend. All hoped to attend. |
| **Carers’ Survey** | Small discussion around carers’ survey was held. Suggestion to gather more information about the breakdown of diagnosis/ condition of cared for person. However, Gemma explained that this information can already be gathered using our organisational database. Suggested question   * How long were you caring for before you accessed support? * Do you have an emergency plan?   Gemma will begin to draft annual survey and send for input from panel members. |
| **A.O.B.** | *At this point in the meeting, the internet signal cut out and many attempts were made to reengage to no avail. The points following were sent on email to attending members.*  COCIS annual event  COCIS and VOCAL are hosting a joint event to celebrate 25 years of the Carers movement.  This will be a daytime event on the **4th October**at the**City Chambers in Edinburgh**   Carers will be invited to share their own caring journeys and recognise how they have contributed to the key achievements of the Carers Movement   We will also focus on developing a shared future vision for the carers movement.  We will explore what we can we learn from current innovation, from other countries and from emerging technology.    The meeting will be chaired by Derek Feeley, Chair of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care and sessions will include   * A history of the Carers Movement and graphic illustration of the last 25 years * ‘Euro Vision’ where our European delegation will highlight innovation from other countries * Our interactive session and ‘Ideas Factory’ will enable carers to ‘imagine’ and share their vision for the future. Themes will include ‘will there be robots’ and ‘the future of short breaks’   Places will be limited and priority given to carers, so we are asking you to Save the Date and consider nominating one staff member and two carers from your areas to attend. |