**Meeting Note Carers Panel 25.3.24**

**Apologies:** AB, HF, PG

**Attended:** JA, DB, DB, RG,KG,KH,DK,LS, MS

**Meeting facilitated by:** GTD, with Voluntary Support from JN

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| All | Actions from previous meeting   * GTD shared that ID card discussion was brought to the attention of Jess Wade as an area that members continue to feel would be of benefit to carers. Benefits include emergency information/ identification and recognition as a carer and access to benefits/ offers. Could also be an access point for respitality in EL. JW confirmed that a organisational ID card had been considered in the past but that CoEL did not have the resources to implement the scheme. JW raised the idea of an ID card as a potential campaign with CT linked to free travel. Panel are keen to continue to consider how an ID card could work. * Members updated on progress since last meeting around Carers Week community support/ discount/ offers for carers:   LS updated that she had no luck with requests for support from East Links Park  DB updated that she liaised with Dunbar Garden Centre who were happy to provide an offer to carers for the week. Initially there was a query around how carers would ID that they were carers, but he centre offered vouchers that CoEL can distribute.  RG updated that he made contact with the Marine who suggested that they would be able to support the campaign. After the meeting, GTD and RG have corresponded further about this and Marine have offered to send some vouchers. We await further detail.  RG has received confirmation from Foxlake that they would be delighted to support the campaign. RG and GTD are planning a visit to Foxlake to explore the offer further.  RG can organise space for carers at the NBRFC. GTD and RG are in talks about how this will work and capacity to enable the event within CoEL. RG made suggestion that the event could be in collaboration with other local organisations with a connection to carers. Further planning required.  KG suggested Enjoy Leisure – GTD shared that she has made contact with EL already and is in communication with the comms manager who is keen to support the campaign in some way.   * Other members left the meeting with the intention of making contact with other organisations and will follow up with GTD if any returns: MS – Whitekirk, DB – Archerfield, LS – Historic Scotland, KH – National Trust. |
| GTD | Brief update on eligibility event and next steps from Maria Burton  Document circulated as a follow up to the Eligibility Criteria event in Jan. Grey lines show Scottish Government criteria from the Carers Act statutory guidance as consistently used across local authorities. Blue lines include comments from carers on the impact across the different areas.  ELHSCP are now working on a benchmarking exercise where they look at the ACSP and what support the carer has been able to access to establish an guide budget which should increase consistency of access to supports.  RG asked whether the criteria acts as an outcome measure to assess impact of an intervention on a carer? GTD will raise this question with MB, but also GTD informed panel that MB has committed to meet with panel annually as part of action plan to update on progress towards to Carers Strategy. GTD recommended that panel invite MB to attend meeting in the near future. Panel were keen to have Maria visit. |
| GTD | GTD presented a summary of findings to members from 24 Carers Survey. Inclusive of demographics and equality information, how carers heard about CoEL, reasons carers find it difficult to take breaks, interest in respitality, uptake of ACSP and experience of this process, impact of a caring role, hospital discharge experience, whether carers feel respected by professionals involved in the care of the person who is cared for, training and workshop needs, beneficial support and what carers needed earlier in their journey.  The aim of sharing this information was to help to inform the focus of the panel over the coming year. |
| DB | DB is panel member as well as Unpaid Carers Representative on East Lothian Integration Joint Board for Health and Social Care.  Due to his recent appointment, DB spoke about his role with members. Group discussion around the potential impact of ongoing financial pressures on local authorities on people with care needs and by extension their carers.  Discussion underlined the importance of highlighting the impact on carers and carers’ support needs to duty bearers/ decision makers and the panel’s key role within this. |
| All | Members worked in groups of three. Took time to discuss issues of most significance and priority focus areas for next 12 months.  Members feedback to rest of group:   * Equality of access to respite care * More value placed on paid and unpaid care * Enhancement of information for carers at point on identification (focus on GP’s) * Improved awareness and recognition, including potential ID card scheme * Outlining the importance of carer support and services that benefit carers to duty bearers/ decision makers |
| ALL | Members were asked to complete short questionnaire on logistics of panel to ensure views taken into consideration when planning for the coming year. |
| All | Group shared lunch together. |