



**ACHSCP Impact Assessment – Stage 1 – Proportionality and Relevance**

<b>Name of Policy or Practice being developed</b>	Removal of Carers Improvement Fund
<b>Name of Officer completing Proportionality and Relevance Questionnaire</b>	Alison MacLeod
<b>Date of Completion</b>	21/10/25
<b>What is the aim to be achieved by the policy or practice and is it legitimate?</b>	The aim is to contribute towards budget savings by removing the £150,000 annual Carers Improvement Fund from the Strategy and Transformation Budget.
<b>What are the means to be used to achieve the aim and are they appropriate and necessary?</b>	The value of the fund will be removed from the budget and will not be available for use in future years. Whilst this is not a desirable action, it is being proposed in the context of the extremely challenging financial situation the Aberdeen City IJB finds itself in. £14.3m savings had to be found in financial year 2025/26 and a further £14.4m savings have to be found for financial year 2026/27. Mainstream support for unpaid carers still exists. The Carers Improvement Fund trials alternatives to mainstream support which is more innovative and bespoke to individual needs and could be used to help shape future mainstream services.e.g. providing 1to1 support for Young Carers through physical activity programmes through Sport Aberdeen enabling short breaks for Young Carers. The fund has supported development of the previous Carers Strategies aims; however, projects were developed with the intention of incorporating these into mainstream and business as usual if they were successful. If the budget savings option is agreed to cease this fund, mitigations for transitioning projects will be put in place via the Carers Strategy Improvement Group.
<b>If the policy or practice has a neutral or positive impact please describe it here.</b>	This action will have a negative impact.
<b>Is an Integrated Impact Assessment required for this policy or decision (Yes/No) <i>Note – if multiple assessments are required please complete a separate template for each of these and embed them in the section below ‘Rationale for Decision’ with a brief supporting narrative. This will ensure all relevant assessments are connected regardless of the</i></b>	Yes

<b>stage they are at in the process.</b>	
<b>Rationale for Decision</b> <b>NB: consider: -</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How many people is the proposal likely to affect?</li> <li>• Have any obvious negative impacts been identified?</li> <li>• How significant are these impacts?</li> <li>• Do they relate to an area where there are known inequalities?</li> <li>• Why are a person's rights being restricted?</li> <li>• What is the problem being addressed and will the restriction lead to a reduction in the problem?</li> <li>• Does the restriction involve a blanket policy, or does it allow for different cases to be treated differently?</li> <li>• Are there existing safeguards that mitigate the restriction?</li> </ul>	<p>This proposal has the potential to impact young and adult carers in Aberdeen who will lose the benefit not only to access the current support available via the Improvement Fund but also any potential service developments or improvements that could have been identified from some of the tests of change.</p> <p>It is recognised that the unpaid caring role brings inequality and reducing the support available to unpaid carers will only exacerbate that. The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 was enacted to improve support for unpaid carers acknowledging their essential contribution to the care sector. The Care Reform (Scotland) Bill grants unpaid carers a legal entitlement to breaks from their caring duties. Removing the Carers Improvement fund whilst contributing to the IJB's requirement to make budget savings will restrict the support currently available and the potential to improve support available in future. Support to unpaid carers will still exist however from mainstream services. circa. £2 million is currently spent via these services.</p>
<b>Decision of Reviewer</b>	
<b>Name of Reviewer</b>	
<b>Date</b>	

## APPENDIX C

### ACHSCP Impact Assessment – Stage 2 – Impact Assessment

<b>Description of Policy or Practice being developed including intended aim.</b>	Cease Carers Strategy Improvement Fund
<b>Is this a new or existing policy or practice?</b>	Existing
<b>Name of Officer Completing Impact Assessment</b>	Grace Milne
<b>Date Impact Assessment Started</b>	October 2025
<b>Name of Lead Officer</b>	Alison MacLeod
<b>Date Impact Assessment approved</b>	

### Summary of Key Information

<b>Groups or rights impacted.</b>	<p>The groups that the Carers Improvement Fund support and removal of the fund could as potentially impact are: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age, Sex and Disability, Race and Ethnicity</li> </ul>
-----------------------------------	---

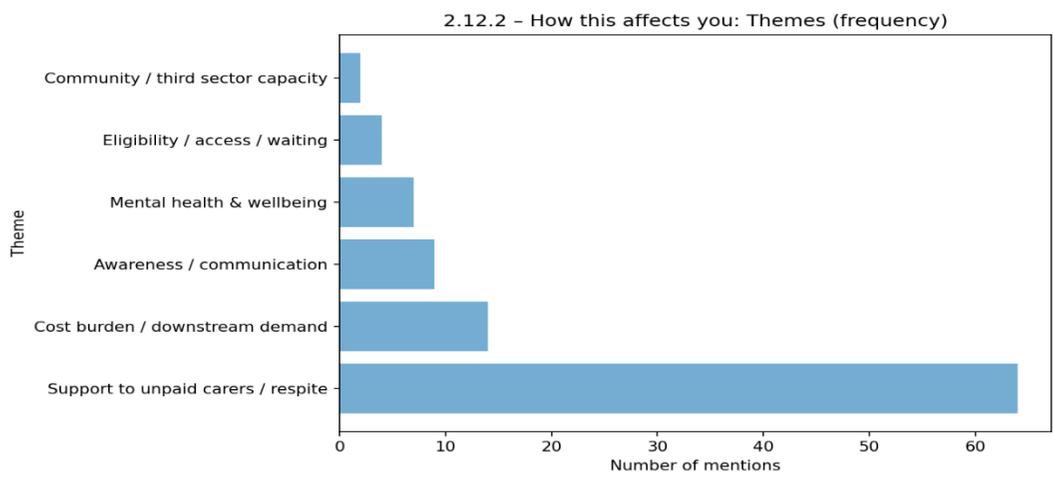
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Inequalities such as - health and social care provision, education and employment, physical environment and local opportunities</li> <li>• Children’s rights UNCRC Articles 12,23,24,25,28,31</li> </ul>																											
<p><b>Feedback from consultation and engagement and how this informed development of the policy or practice</b></p>	<p>Budget Option Consultation took place between November – December 2025, this option along with others were considered and feedback was given through a Commonplace survey. There has also been direct feedback from organisations and partners for the Carers Strategy Improvement Group.</p> <p>From the 951 responses from the Commonplace survey 25% of people considered themselves as an unpaid Carer. There was also a request for respondents to select their Protected Characteristics with Age, Disability, Rights of Children and Socio-Economic Status being highest selected options. Feedback suggests from the all responses that ceasing the Carers Strategy Improvement Fund would impact on a number of themes. (see table below)</p> <div data-bbox="678 981 1364 1451" data-label="Figure"> <table border="1"> <caption>Themes - How this affects you (Q2.13.2)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Theme</th> <th>Mentions</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>No personal impact stated</td> <td>38</td> <td>23.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community/third sector capacity</td> <td>35</td> <td>21.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mental health &amp; social isolation</td> <td>28</td> <td>17.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prevention &amp; long-term costs</td> <td>23</td> <td>14.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Health inequalities / vulnerable groups</td> <td>17</td> <td>10.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>General opposition to ceasing</td> <td>13</td> <td>7.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unaware of fund</td> <td>9</td> <td>5.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sceptical / duplication / waste</td> <td>3</td> <td>1.8%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <p>It was also noted that 65.7% of people responded that this option would have an impact on them.  No Impact – 34.2  Low Impact – 16.9  Medium Impact – 20.6  High Impact – 28.2</p> <p>Carers Strategy Improvement Fund discussed potential impacts of not continuing funding, considering support to continue new legislation with right to breaks. Mitigations and collaboration opportunities for alternative funding was seen as a suitable alternative if the option was to be progressed.</p>	Theme	Mentions	Percentage	No personal impact stated	38	23.2%	Community/third sector capacity	35	21.3%	Mental health & social isolation	28	17.1%	Prevention & long-term costs	23	14.0%	Health inequalities / vulnerable groups	17	10.4%	General opposition to ceasing	13	7.9%	Unaware of fund	9	5.5%	Sceptical / duplication / waste	3	1.8%
Theme	Mentions	Percentage																										
No personal impact stated	38	23.2%																										
Community/third sector capacity	35	21.3%																										
Mental health & social isolation	28	17.1%																										
Prevention & long-term costs	23	14.0%																										
Health inequalities / vulnerable groups	17	10.4%																										
General opposition to ceasing	13	7.9%																										
Unaware of fund	9	5.5%																										
Sceptical / duplication / waste	3	1.8%																										
<p><b>Performance Measures identified, where these will</b></p>	<p>Performance and monitoring will be continued through the Carers Strategy Implementation Group and oversight of any significant changes or impacts will be reported</p>																											

<b>be reported and how impact will be monitored.</b>	through Annual Reports for the Carers Strategy. This will have oversight and approval from the IJB.
--	---

**Review**

<b>Date the Impact will be reviewed</b>	Year 1 Annual Report – Carers Strategy 2026-2030
<b>Rationale for Date</b>	Continued Carers Strategy development and assurance means.

Having considered all of the groups, duties and rights in the list at Appendix A of the Guidance on Impact Assessment could this policy or practice have a negative impact on any of the following. Please answer Yes or No. If you answer Yes, please specify precisely which particular group, duty or right will be impacted and how and also what (if any) current evidence you have.

	Yes/No	Details	Evidence
Protected Characteristics	Yes	As Detailed above the projects already funded through CSIG Improvement fund have support those with protected characteristics. Ceasing the Fund will impact on further service developments to support Carers is different ways than general mainstreams services	The Budget Consultation responses were themed on how this options affects individuals. 
Fairer Scotland Duty	Yes		
Health Inequality	Yes		
Specific Groups	Yes		
Human Rights	No		
UNCRC	Yes	As Above	

<b>Will there be any cumulative impacts between this policy or decision and others</b>	<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>	X
<b>Describe what this cumulative impact will be and include evidence mitigations in the sections below</b>				

Please list below the groups of stakeholders to be engaged with or consulted, what feedback has been received and how this has influenced development of the policy or practice and what (if any) mitigating actions have been put in place.

Stakeholder Groups	Feedback Received	Influence on Policy or Practice/Mitigating Actions
Carers Strategy Implementation Group	<p>The improvement fund has supported other organisations and groups to expand the support to Unpaid Carers across Aberdeen City. Removal will see a shift in capacity of new test of change initiatives. Current Projects will work? with ACHSCP to look at alternative funding options and opportunities.</p> <p>Other options for Budget savings like Reducing support to unpaid carers was less palatable.</p>	<p>Key priorities are shaped with CSIG and all other stakeholders – these will be underpinned by specific actions within the delivery plan, including those that need brought forward from previous strategy as determined by the group. Mitigations will be supported by priority 2 – <i>“Our collective Community are creative and innovative with our finance and resources to maximise support to Carers”</i>, looking at our finance and resources using creative and collaborative approaches.</p> <p>This engagement has influenced budget setting options and Carers Strategy refresh ACHSCP.</p>
Budget Options Survey Commonplace	<p><b>Effects:</b> Ceasing the fund is seen as increasing strain and burnout for unpaid carers, reducing respite, and driving downstream pressure on statutory services. Some awareness gaps (carers not knowing about the fund) explain mixed “no impact” responses, but overall sentiment points to preventing deterioration and avoiding costlier crises.</p> <p><b>Mitigation options:</b> Rather than remove, retain and refocus the fund on high value projects; explore alternative/merged funding and codelivery with partners to keep prevention benefits. Improve communications/signposting (including nondigital formats), consider eligibility tweaks for highest risk carers, and add light digital/self serve options without creating exclusion.</p>	<p>Effects and Mitigation options will be considered within the CSIG, and will form part of the Delivery Plan co-production.</p> <p>Actions will be shaped around the two new strategy aims.</p>

**Scottish Specific Public Sector Duties (SSPSED)**

Procured, Tendered or Commissioned Services

Is any part of this policy/service to be carried out wholly or partly by contactors and if so, how will equality, human rights including children's rights and the Fairer Scotland duties be addressed?

Not Applicable
----------------

