



**‘CARING ABOUT CARERS, THE CARERS’
STRATEGY IN WALES - IMPLEMENTATION
PLAN’ – THE FIRST REPORT**



A Strategy for Carers in Wales

FOREWORD BY JANE HUTT, MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES



It is almost a year since I launched 'Caring About Carers – Carers Strategy in Wales – Implementation Plan' in July 2000.

Carers and issues affecting the health and well being of carers are now firmly on the agenda of the National Assembly for Wales. The Assembly remains wholly committed to carers and acknowledges the vital contribution made to society by the many unpaid carers in Wales who look after relatives or friends who are frail, sick disabled or vulnerable.

The most significant measure affecting carers in Wales this year will be commencement of the Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000. This Act, for the first time, permits local authorities to provide services directly to carers. To support implementation of the Act and the provision of carers' services the Assembly has committed over £20 million over the 3 years from 2001-2004.

Another important first for carers in 2001 is the inclusion in the UK Census of a question that will help identify the numbers of carers and the extent of their caring role. I will look carefully at the Census results and what they mean for carers in Wales.

In addition, in February this year I launched 'Improving Health in Wales, A Plan for the NHS and its Partners'. The successful implementation of that strategy will improve health and social care service provision to users and carers.

The measures set out in 'Caring About Carers' 2000, were very much a first practical step towards addressing carers' needs. The Assembly is committed to supporting carers and enabling them to obtain the information they need. This, the first annual report on 'Caring About Carers' 2000 is about that commitment and is part of the ongoing dialogue between me, as Minister for Health and Social Services, the National Assembly as a whole and carers in Wales. This report provides an account of progress on commitments given in 'Caring About Carers' 2000 and looks forward to new activities and initiatives that will help carers to care and maintain their own health and well-being. I am pleased to be able to say that this has been prepared in collaboration with the Carers Strategy Review Panel whose membership is drawn widely, including carers and their representative voluntary organisations.

In the last year I have had the privilege of joining carers at their own events and discussing at first hand the issues that effect them and the people for whom they care. For example, I have attended the Monmouth Crossroads AGM, the launch of a new branch of Carers National Association in the Vale of Glamorgan and the Pembrokeshire Carers Outreach Project symposium. In addition, carers' surgeries in my own constituency in the Vale of Glamorgan – keep me right up to date!

Contents

	Page
Foreward	iii
Summary	v
Chapter 1 Introduction	1-2
Chapter 2 Action and Activity	3-19
Health and Social Care Information Support Young Carers Carers and Employment	
Chapter 3 Evaluation and Review of the Carers' Strategy in Wales	20-21
Annex A Carers' Special Grant Plans 2000-2001- Summary Information	22-32
Annex B Carers' Strategy Review Panel: membership	33-34
Annex C UK Government Activity that helps Carers	35
Annex D Useful Contacts	36

SUMMARY

Carers

Carers are people who look after family members or friends who need care, help or support. Carers can be adults caring for other adults, parents caring for ill or disabled children under the age of 18 years, or young carers aged under 18 years who care for another family member. There is not a typical carer. Some carers do not see themselves as carers, but see themselves primarily as a parent, child, wife or husband, partner, friend or neighbour. Some carers live in the same house as the person for whom they care. Others live nearby and visit regularly. Some live a distance away and may visit weekly, monthly or even less frequently but nevertheless feel a great responsibility towards the person for whom they care. Caring often impacts on the whole family.

'Caring About Carers', the Carers Strategy in Wales, Implementation Plan

'Caring About Carers', the Carers Strategy in Wales, Implementation Plan was launched by Jane Hutt, Minister for Health and Social Services in July 2000. 'Caring About Carers' 2000 set out the National Assembly's commitments to carers under five key headings:

- ▼ Health and Social Care;
- ▼ Information;
- ▼ Support;
- ▼ Young Carers; and
- ▼ Carers and Employment.

'Caring About Carers' committed the Assembly to annual review and evaluation of the Strategy and to the establishment of a Carers' Strategy Review Panel that would help with review and develop the Strategy for the future. This first report provides an account of progress made on the commitments given and looks forward to additional action and activity by the Assembly and others on measures to help carers care and maintain their own health and well-being. A few examples are given in this summary.

Achievements to Date

- 4 Twenty-two local authority carers' plans approved by the Minister for Health and Social Services;
- 4 In 2000-2001 £3m awarded in special grant to local authorities for breaks for carers;
- 4 The Carers and Disabled Children Act will come into force in Wales on 1st July 2000;
- 4 The Strategy has been drawn to the attention of higher education institutions that have responsibility for training of GPs and other health and social care professionals;
- 4 The Assembly has provided local authorities with funds to enable them to offer free bus passes to pensioners and disabled people from April 2001.
- 4 The Carers' Strategy Review Panel has been established, the membership of which includes carers and their representative organisations.

New Commitments and Activities

- 4 £19.7m has been included in Assembly spending plans for implementation of the Carers' Strategy from 2001 to 2004;
- 4 The National Assembly will produce a Carers' Guide to Assessment leaflet to help explain the provision of the Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000;
- 4 The NHS Plan for Wales Implementation Strategy has been developed which involves close collaboration with all statutory, voluntary, independent, professional stakeholders through a series of task and finish groups. The interests of carers and their representative organisations will be taken into account.
- 4 The National Assembly will investigate with the Welsh Flu Immunisation Group the possibility of extending flu vaccination entitlement to categories of carers who are not currently covered by flu vaccination scheme.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

CARING ABOUT CARERS – THE FIRST REPORT¹

1.1 'Caring About Carers', the Carers Strategy in Wales, Implementation Plan was launched by Jane Hutt, Minister for Health and Social Services in July 2000¹. 'Caring About Carers' 2000 set out the National Assembly's commitments to carers under five key headings:

Health and Social Care;

- ▼ Information;
- ▼ Support;
- ▼ Young Carers; and
- ▼ Carers and Employment.

1.2 'Caring About Carers' 2000' committed the Assembly to annual review and evaluation of the Strategy and to the establishment of a Carers' Strategy Review Panel² that would help with review and develop the Strategy for the future.

1.3 'Caring About Carers' 2000 – the first report' provides an account of progress made on the commitments given in 'Caring About Carers' 2000' and looks forward to further action and activity by the Assembly and others on measures to help carers care and maintain their own health and well-being. This report has been prepared in collaboration with the Carers' Strategy Review Panel.

WHO ARE CARERS³?

1.4 Carers are people who look after family members or friends who need care, help or support. Carers can be adults caring for other adults, parents caring for ill or disabled children under the age of 18 years, or young carers aged under 18 years who care for another family member. There is not a typical carer. Carers may be of any age, culture or religion, and from a diverse range of backgrounds. Some carers do not see themselves as carers, but see themselves primarily as a parent, child, wife or husband, partner, friend or neighbour.

¹Caring About Carers', Carers Strategy in Wales, Implementation Plan, July 2000 and this First Report can be found on the National Assembly's web site at www.wales.gov.uk/subsocialpolicy/topicindex-e.htm) or copies can be obtained from Ms Sue Ellis, Social Care Policy Division, 4th Floor Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ, telephone 029 20826980, email susan.ellis1@Wales.gsi.gov.uk.

²The membership of the Carers' Strategy Review Panel is detailed at Annex B to this report.

³The Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000, section 1 defines a carer as an individual aged 16 or over who provides or intends to provide a substantial amount of care on a regular basis for another individual aged 18 or over; section 6 defines a parent carer as a person with parental responsibility for a disabled child who provides or intends to provide a substantial amount of care on a regular basis for the child.

1.5 The term carer includes people who may or may not be a relative and who may or may not be living with the person for whom they care. It does not include volunteers who provide care as part of their work for a voluntary organisation, nor anyone who is paid for what they do.

1.6 Some carers live in the same house as the person for whom they care. Others live nearby and visit regularly. Some live a distance away and may visit weekly, monthly or even less frequently but nevertheless feel a great responsibility towards the person for whom they care. Some carers provide care for limited periods of time or as part of an informal support network. Some provide care for more than one person. Caring often impacts on the whole family.

Carers of Disabled Children

1.7 The caring responsibility of parents with disabled children is over and above those of normal parenting. The needs of carers of disabled children are likely to vary during their child's development. Key periods of stress are likely to occur at times of transition – starting school, transfer from primary to secondary school, and the transition from children's to adults' services.

1.8 Parent carers are likely to spend the longest time caring. The cumulative effects of caring on emotional and physical health need to be considered. The likely impact on the whole family, in particular on siblings of the disabled child, needs to be recognised.

CHAPTER TWO: Action and Activity

2.1 Following consultation with carers and their representative organisations and the Assembly's Health and Social Services Committee, 'Caring About Carers' 2000 identified five priority areas for action in 2000-2001. These are:

- ∇ Health and Social Care;
- ∇ Information;
- ∇ Support;
- ∇ Young Carers; and
- ∇ Carers and Employment.

This chapter gives an account of activity, to date, in these five key areas.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

The Joint Agenda for Carers

2.2 Carers have a right to see their own health and social care needs met. They need help to maintain their own health, both physical and emotional. Although evidence on whether carers suffer proportionately more health problems than other people of the same age is not conclusive, physical injuries in particular become more common as people get older, and a large proportion of carers are over 60.

2.3 The NHS and local authority social services departments have a crucial role in -

- identifying carers and the contribution they make;
- assessing their needs alongside those for whom they care;
- providing services that are responsive to their particular circumstances;
- promoting the health and wellbeing of carers;
- promoting awareness of the needs of carers;
- supporting and promoting the voluntary sector and other carers' networks.

Action and Activity Identified In "Caring About Carers' 2000

4 Joint NHS and Social Services Planning and priorities guidance

This guidance has been overtaken by publication of 'Improving Health, A Plan for the NHS with its Partners', February 2001⁵

4 Joint Health and Social Care Charter

This joint Charter identifies the principles on which NHS and social care users can expect their care and treatment to be based. The Charter, which will be published later in 2001 will provide a framework within which GPs, Social Services and others can identify and respond to the needs of carers and those for whom they care.

The Joint Agenda for Carers

Additional Action and Activity:

4 Older People in Wales.

A comprehensive and integrated Strategy for Older People in Wales will be developed in full collaboration with all our partners over the next 12 months. In addition to health and social care issues, the Strategy will encompass all aspects of the Assembly's responsibilities as they impact on the lives of elderly people so as to be both comprehensive and sensitive to the differing needs and expectations of older people. The Strategy will recognise that people over 60 years often have caring responsibilities themselves.

The aim is to formulate a Strategy for the health and well being of older people in Wales that will be responsive to their needs, provide services in a timely and appropriate way and promote their independence wherever possible. Specific issues which the Strategy will consider include:

- support for people who wish to remain independent and in their own homes for as long as practicable;
- the provision of seamless and complimentary support; and
- ensuring that the services on which older people depend are organised around their needs and those of their carers.

⁵Improving Health, A Plan for the NHS with its Partners', February 2001. Additional copies can be obtained from Stephen Jenkins, Health and Well-Being Strategy and Planning Team, Cathays Park, Cardiff, telephone number 029 2080 1032, email stephen.jenkins@wales.gsi.gov.uk, or on the Assembly's web site at <http://www.wales.gov.uk/subihealth/content/keypubs/pdf/nhsstrategydoc.pdf>.

The work will be undertaken by a Steering Group, chaired by Dr Brian Gibbons AM Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services, and will involve a wide organisations. An extensive consultation programme will ensure older people and their representatives are fully involved in developing the Strategy.

Health Act 1999 – Partnership Framework, Joint Flexibilities £1.9m is being made available to local authorities in 2001-02 via a Special Grant, to support flexible care and joint working and should ultimately help to improve services for users and carers through more innovative service provision. Local authorities are required to work within their NHS partners to develop projects which will attract the special grant funding.

Mental Health

2.4 The National Assembly considers mental health to be a key public health priority. Mental illness is common and can be disabling. It is widely recognised that carers are particularly vulnerable to depression and emotional stress especially when caring is long term.

Action and Activity Identified In 'Caring About Carers', July 2000

- 4 The National Assembly will produce two new strategies for mental health, one for adults of working age and one for children and adolescents.

Adult Mental Health Services for Wales, 'Equity, Empowerment, Effectiveness, Efficiency',⁶ builds on the Welsh Office Mental Illness Strategy 1989 recognising the move in service provision to treating people in the community as opposed to care in institutions. This new strategy will provide the strategic background against which a National Service Framework for Wales for adult mental health services will be developed later in 2001. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, 'Everybody's Business'⁷. The strategy aims to ensure timely and effective intervention from an appropriate source for children and young people with mental health problems or mental disorder. The present draft document states very clearly that the welfare and needs of the child must be the driving force behind service planning, organisation and provision. It stresses the need for all sectors of care provision to see child and adolescent mental health as a priority for them.

- 4 National Service Framework for Mental Health Services.

Both Strategies were discussed by The Assembly on 3 April 2001 and are due to be published later in summer 2001.

⁶'Adult Mental Services for Wales: Equity, Empowerment, Effectiveness, Efficiency'. Draft document on [www.wales.gov.uk/Current consultations/consultations/2000](http://www.wales.gov.uk/Current%20consultations/consultations/2000). Contact Rob Booth, PCH4, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NQ, telephone 029 205476, email Rob.Booth@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK.

⁷Full title, reference, web address and contact name, number etc for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Strategy.

The NHS and Carers

2.5 Whilst there is no statutory framework to support the responsibilities of the NHS in relation to carers it is clearly important that the NHS incorporates the needs of carers when planning and providing health services, whether in community or in hospital settings. This is required at an individual level as well as through specific service and strategic planning mechanisms, for example, through the involvement of carers' groups.

2.6 Many carers have health care needs that are directly attributable to their caring role. The needs assessment process for individual patients and service users should identify any specific needs of the carer and direct them to the appropriate services. Where a carer has needs for health services it is important that he or she can be considered and cared for as a patient in their own right. In many instances carers will have a combination of health and social needs and so close communication and co-operation between Social Services and other statutory, voluntary and private organisations is essential.

2.7 The NHS must therefore ensure that staff are alert to the needs of carers. Carers should be involved planning patient care where this is appropriate and in accordance with the wishes and consent of the individual patient.

Action and Activity Identified In 'Caring About Carers', July 2000

- 4 Proposals for meeting the needs of carers should be outlined in Health Improvement Programmes (HIPs), which are the key mechanism for strategic planning within the NHS and for the broader health improvement agenda.

The development of Health Improvement Programmes and the planning process in general is being received following publication of 'Improving Health, A Plan for the NHS with its partners', February 2001. Carers and their needs will feature prominently in future guidance.

Action and Activity Identified In 'Caring About Carers', 2000

- 4 We will bring 'Caring About Carers' 2000 to the attention of Higher Education Institutions responsible for the training of GPs and primary care staff.

The National Assembly for Wales wrote to Vice-Chancellors, Principals and Chief Executives of higher education institutions in Wales that have responsibility for training of GPs and primary care and other care related professionals in August 2000. Their attention was drawn to the section in 'Caring About Carers' 2000 which deals with the NHS and carers: it is important for the NHS to incorporate the needs of carers when planning and providing health services, whether in community or hospital setting.

The NHS and Carers

Additional Action and Activity:

4 'Improving Health in Wales – A Plan for the NHS with its Partners'
The NHS Plan for Wales was published in February 2001. An Implementation Strategy has been developed for the Plan which involves close collaboration with all statutory, voluntary, independent, professional stakeholders through a series of task and finish groups. The interests of carers and their representative organisations will be taken into account

4 Flu Vaccination

The National Assembly will investigate with the Welsh Flu Immunisation Group the possibility of extending flu vaccination entitlement to categories of carers who are not currently covered by flu vaccination scheme.

Social Services and Carers

2.8 Local authority social services departments have a leading role to play in supporting carers. As part of their role in community care, they have a responsibility under the Carers Recognition Act 1995 for undertaking assessments of carers alongside those for whom they care. The Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000 extends this responsibility: carers are entitled to a carers' assessment even where the person cared for has refused a community care assessment or is not in receipt of services, the 2000 Act also provides for services to be provided directly to the carer.

2.9 In partnership with other statutory, voluntary and private organisations, local authority social services departments are required to secure a wide range of services including:

- the provision of relevant information;
- assessment of needs;
- domiciliary care;
- day services;
- residential care;
- carers services;
- respite care and breaks.

In fulfilling these responsibilities social workers and social care staff need to be trained to understand and respond to the needs of carers.

Action and Activity Identified In 'Caring About Carers', July 2000

- 4 Under the Training Support Programme, Social Services are encouraged to involve service users and carers in their training activities. Social work qualifying training through the DipSW and social care training through NVQs both make explicit reference to involving and working with carers.

Social work qualifying training and social care training through NVQs both make explicit reference to involving and working with care

- 4 We will issue for consultation new guidance for social services departments on how they prepare plans for their services. The guidance will include advice on how the needs of carers should be addressed and how key interest groups are involved in the planning process.

National Assembly Guidance Planning for Social Services issued December 2000.⁸ This guidance requires local authorities to prepare Strategic Plans with a five year timeframe, monitored through effective performance management processes and updated through annual business plans. Carers are identified as a key group whose needs Social Care Plans should identify and address. Plans must be prepared in partnership with user and carer interests.

- 4 New guidance on Fair Access to Care will be developed and will identify how the needs of carers should be recognised.

A draft project plan has been developed and the target date for action is now April 2002.

Social Services and Carers

Additional Action and Activity:

6 weeks Free Home Care on Discharge from Hospital –

A new scheme will be introduced in 2001. Local authorities will be put in funds to support elderly people, on discharge from hospital, where assessed as requiring home support or rehabilitation to continue their normal lives at homes so that they can receive up to six weeks free home care. This means that carers will have help and support when the cared for person is most in need.

The Assembly will pay special grant to local authorities to cover the charges which would otherwise be met by individuals. The details of the scheme are being developed in consultation with local government and other partners from the NHS and voluntary sector.

- 4 Learning Disability Advisory Group

The Assembly has established this external Advisory Group to develop proposals for a framework of services for people with learning disabilities, their families and carers. This report will be received by The National Assembly by the end of June 2001. Their report is due to be

⁸Social Services Planning Guidance – Social Services Inspectorate for Wales National Assembly for Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NQ.Tel 02920825565 Web Site www.wales.gov.uk

with the Assembly by the end of May 2001. The Advisory Group makes a number of recommendations about the provision of information to carers; help in the family home; the assessment of carers needs and the participation of carers in the planning and development of services. There will be a wide consultation on the Advisory Group's report.

INFORMATION

2.10 The provision of easily accessible, relevant, factually correct information is of critical importance to carers and their representative organisations. 'Caring About Carers', July 2000 acknowledged the need for a longer term view of the information needs of carers and their representatives and identified areas for early action.

Action and Activity Identified In 'Caring About Carers', July 2000

- 4 With partners develop a joint information strategy; assess the need for and nature of a Wales Carers' Information Pack; develop and provide financial support to establish a carers' website.

The Carers' Strategy Review Panel has established an Information and Communications Sub-Group to take forward these action points. The sub-group has undertaken a mapping exercise to establish what information sources already exist for carers and will be developing recommendations for further action, particularly in relation to the development of a carers' web site.

In the meantime a 'Caring About Carers' 2000 summary leaflet⁹ has been produced and distributed through GPs' surgeries, public libraries, social services departments, carers' centres and by carers' organisations.

- 4 The 2001 Census will include for the first time, a question on carers, seeking information on the time people spend on unpaid caring. The 2001 Census undertaken on 29 April asked:

"Do you look after, or give any help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or other because of:

- Long-term physical or mental ill-health or disability, or
- Problems related to old age?"

The Census results will inform National Assembly, UK and Local Government policy making.

- 4 We will encourage GPs to identify those amongst their patients who are carers and to be aware of their potential health problems. We will encourage GPs to provide appropriate information for carers in their surgeries.

The Health and Social Care Charter will provide a framework within which GPs and others can identify and respond to the needs of carers and those for whom they care.

⁹Caring About Carers', A Strategy for Carers in Wales - summary document. Additional copies are available from Sue Ellis, Social Care Policy Division, 4th Floor Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ, telephone number 029 20826980, email susan.ellis@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

- 4 Information on local authority services will be provided in carers' special grant plans should be made widely available by local authorities.

Guidance issued with Special Grant Report 2001-2 asks local authorities to give a detailed account of consultation on their carers plans and ask them to make the their plans widely available in public libraries and at local authority offices and carers' centres.

Annex A to this report provides a summary of local authority activity attributable to the Carers' Special Grant in 2000-2001.

Information

Additional Action and Activity:

- 4 Information and Communications Sub-group of Carers Strategy Review Panel will continue its work and report its recommendations to the Review Panel with a view to developing an Information Strategy and a Wales Carers' web site during the next 12 months.
- 4 Carers' Guide to Assessment – the National Assembly will produce a Carers' Guide to Assessment leaflet to explain the provisions of the Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000
- 4 Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000 Implementation Seminar – with partners in local government, the voluntary sector and the NHS the National Assembly plans to hold a seminar to disseminate information on implementing the Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000.

SUPPORT

2.11 Carers may need support in many forms: time, money, advice, physical support and someone to talk to. Carers need someone who will listen, in confidence, to their concerns, fears, hopes and experiences, someone who will empathise with and understand their lives as carers. Young carers in particular need someone to be a friend to them on their own terms.

The Carers' Special Grant

2.12 The National Assembly's intention is to stimulate greater quantity, diversity and flexibility of services to carers. It aims to encourage and support local authority service review and development to help ensure that services in their areas are more responsive to the needs of carers. Carers and carers' organisations will be involved in work by authorities on the appropriateness of current provision and the possibility of developing greater diversity.

- 4 Carers' Special Grant 2000-2001: local authorities were to use the grant for the purpose of enabling carers to take a break from caring. Each local authority was required to prepare and submit a written plan to the Assembly, jointly agreed with the health authority for their area on carers' services

22 local authority carers' plans were approved by the Minister for Health and Social Services and £3m paid to local authorities.

£4m has been allocated to implementation of 'Caring About Carers – the Carers Strategy in Wales' in 2001-2002 – most of that sum, £3.7m will be allocated to local authorities as special grant for carers' services and the balance to other activity to take forward the strategy.

The Carers' Special Grant

Additional Action and Activity:

- 4 £5m and £6m have been included in the Assembly's spending plans for the implementation of the Carers' Strategy in Wales in 2002-3 and 2003-4, respectively – most of these funds will be paid to local authorities to provide carers' services.
- 4 The National Assembly is currently considering commissioning a research project that will explore experience of carers and their representative organisations in the preparation of and consultation on Carers' Special Grant Plans by local authorities.

Charging Practices

2.13 Charging for care is a sensitive issue. Local authorities have had the power to charge for social services since the implementation of the National Assistance Act 1948. Their current powers to charge for home care are set out in the Health and Social Services and Social Security Adjudications Act 1983 which gives local authorities wide discretion over how they set their charges. The 1983 Act requires that charges should be 'reasonable' and 'reasonably practicable to pay'. Local authorities have to balance concerns about charging vulnerable users and carers with the need to fund the service as a whole.

- 4 In the light of further evidence, including the findings of the Audit Commission report, "Charging with Care – how councils charge for home care", May 2000, we will seek to ensure greater consistency and fairness in local authority charging arrangements.

Draft statutory guidance was issued for consultation 15 February 2001 which sets out a broad framework to assist local authorities in designing charging policies which operate fairly and consistently between different services. The period for consultation has been extended to 29 June 2001. Parallel research work is starting in June 2001 on the impact of the new guidance on local authorities in Wales. This work will be completed by October. The outcome from both consultations and research work will inform the final version of the guidance to be issued by the end of the year.

Setting Standards for Carers and Respite Services

2.14 The Care Standards Act 2000 will modernise the regulatory systems throughout the social care services, and in the private and voluntary healthcare services. This will promote greater consistency and improve protection for vulnerable people and so will provide carers with greater assurance about the services they can receive. The National Assembly will do this through new regulation and inspection systems and through stronger safeguards. The new powers:

- provide for the National Assembly for Wales to regulate through a Care Standards Inspectorate a comprehensive range of social and health care services on a single unified and consistent basis to new National Standards;
- establish a Care Council for Wales, to oversee standards in the social care workforce and regulate professional training in this sector; and
- establish a list of persons unsuitable to work with vulnerable adults, (to work alongside the existing list established by the Protection of Children Act) in order to avoid unsuitable people finding their way back into work with vulnerable people.

2.15 The purpose of National Standards is to:

- provide minimum standards below which no provider may operate;
- ensure the protection of those receiving social care services;
- safeguard and promote the health, welfare and quality of life of vulnerable people; and

- provide standards which are robust, measurable and enforceable, in order to achieve these aims. Action identified in 'Caring About Carers', July 2000 Activity

Action and Activity Identified In 'Caring About Carers', July 2000

- 4 To consult on the detailed implementation of the Care Standards Act 2000

Implementation programme underway to establish Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales as a new Division of the Assembly by target date of April 2002

Consultations on National Minimum Standards and accompanying Regulations will take place during 2001.

Implementation programme underway to establish a Care Council for Wales by target date October 2001.

Regulation of professional training in this sector Establishment of a list of persons unsuitable to work with vulnerable adults, (to work alongside the existing list established by the Protection of Children Act) in order to avoid unsuitable people finding their way back into work with vulnerable people.

Transport

2.16 Carers frequently express concern about the availability and accessibility of public transport and the provision of reliable specialised transport for them and the person for whom they care.

Action and Activity Identified In 'Caring About Carers', July 2000

- 4 To improve opportunities for older people and people with a disability the National Assembly announced that bus passes for pensioners and disabled people would be free from 1 April 2001. In addition, to meet the commitment to bus travel, the Assembly made a commitment to introduce free concessionary bus travel on local buses for pensioners and disabled people from April 2002.
- 4 The Assembly bus subsidy grant scheme aims to support the increase of provision of socially necessary bus services by 60% by 2002.

The Assembly has allocated £1.2million; £16.2million; and £21.1million in 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively to enable local authorities to offer free bus passes to pensioners and disabled people from 1 April 2001 and free local bus travel for them from 1 April 2002. The

Assembly has reviewed and revised its previous bus subsidy grant scheme. From April 2001 as the Local Transport Services Grant scheme that has an expanded scope to enable local authorities to fund community transport and other unconventional transport options as well as conventional buses. This should give local authorities additional flexibility to better target transport needs in local communities.

Transport

Additional Action and Activity:

- 4 In February 2001, the National Assembly announced a £300m five year forward capital funding programme, which will be allocated to Local Authorities to support integrated transport projects in their areas. These projects are designed both to encourage a shift from the private car to public transport, and to improve accessibility for all to key services. Projects include, for example, bus corridor improvements which promote mobility by providing better infrastructure for waiting passengers including shelters, raising kerbs and real time information. This will go some way to responding to carers' concerns about the availability and accessibility to public transport.

The Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000

2.17 The Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000 makes four principal changes to the law with the objective of enabling local authorities to offer new support to carers to help them to maintain their own health and well being. The Act:

- Gives local authorities power to supply services directly to carers following assessment;
- Empowers local authorities to make direct payments to carers for services that meet their own assessed care needs, to persons with parental responsibility for disabled children and to 16 and 17 year old disabled children for services that meet their own assessed needs;
- Allows local authorities to run short term break voucher schemes; and
- Gives local authorities power to charge carers for the services they receive.

Action and Activity Identified In 'Caring About Carers', July 2000

- 4 The National Assembly will consult on the secondary legislation and guidance that will be needed to implement the Carers and Disabled Children Act. We will act upon this quickly so that carers and local authorities can use these new powers as soon as possible.

Extensive consultation on regulations and guidance took place between December 2000 and March 2001. The main provisions of the legislation will come into force on 1st July 2001, subject to approval in Assembly Plenary of 12th June 2001.

Consultation will be undertaken on implementation of the voucher scheme provisions of the legislation.

In 2001-2 £1.1m has been included in the local government revenue settlement toward the new burdens to local authorities in revenue support grant to help meet the new burdens associated with carers' assessment under the 2000 Act; this will rise to £2m and £2.6m in 2002-3 and 200-4 respectively.

YOUNG CARERS

2.18 Young carers present a complex set of needs that must not be overlooked. Young carers are a particularly disadvantaged group and the National Assembly is committed to addressing their specific needs.

Action and Activity Identified In 'Caring About Carers', July 2000

- 4 The National Assembly will commission an independent assessment of the needs of young carers in Wales and the issues that affect them. The study will address the range of young carers needs including, education; health; social and leisure issues; and child protection. We will expect to receive recommendations that are concrete, practical and that can be implemented sensibly and quickly. The findings will be made public and will inform the first review of the Carers' Strategy in Wales.

Two research projects have been commissioned and will report by the end of June 2001.

- University of Wales, Swansea is carrying out research into the needs of young carers and how they are met, and in particular will consider the views and feelings of young carers about the services they receive.
- University of Wales, Bangor is looking at the services provided by local authorities for young carers.

The Social Services Inspectorate in Wales has also undertaken a piece of research into Young Carers' and Children's Services.

- 4 The National Assembly will promote awareness of young carers as children in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989. Local authorities' social services departments should ensure that they address this group of children and young people in their Children's Services Plans, both in terms of systems they have in place for identifying those who are vulnerable or in need and how they are being supported.

New guidance on the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families¹⁰ published May 2001 raises awareness. New practice guidance¹¹ published alongside the Framework deals in detail with the needs of disabled children and their families.

- 4 The Children First programme requires local authorities to implement programmes to ensure that children in need, including young carers, gain maximum life chance benefits from education opportunities, health care and social care. Local authorities are required to report to the Assembly on their progress in achieving Children First objectives.

The Children First Programme was launched in April 1999. The Programme has been extended to 2003-04 with funding to match (£47m over the next three years). New guidance was published in February 2001. New objectives have been set to increase the number of disabled children in receipt of family support services – including short-term breaks and domiciliary services – and the number of hours of service provided, in order to enable disabled children and their families to lead as ordinary a life as possible.

- 4 The present standards for the award of Qualified Teacher Status in initial teacher training require trainees to demonstrate their understanding of issues that are raised by varying pupil needs. This will include how pupils' learning is affected by their emotional and social development, and the need to liaise effectively with parents and other carers and with agencies responsible for pupils' education and welfare. We will build on this and give the position of young carers particular emphasis when the initial teacher training curricula are reviewed.

Young Carers

Additional Action and Activity:

- 4 The National Assembly will in collaboration with the University of Wales, Bangor and the University of Wales, Swansea, and Carers National Association hold two seminars to disseminate the young carer research findings and raise awareness of young carers in Wales.

- 4 The findings of these two research project will inform Assembly policy development.

¹⁰Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families, National Assembly for Wales, May 2001. Copies available from Neil Surman, Children First Manager, Children and Families Division, Cathays Park, Cardiff, telephone number 029 206844 email neil.surman@wales.gsi.gov.uk or via the internet at www.wales.gov.uk/childrenfirst or www.cymru.gov.uk/rhioplantynyntaf.

¹¹National Assembly Circular 4/2001 The Children First Programme in Wales: Guidance for 2001-02. The National Assembly for Wales, February 2001. Copies available from Neil Surman, Children First Manager, Children and Families Division, Cathays Park, Cardiff, telephone number 029 206844 email neil.surman@wales.gsi.gov.uk or via the internet at www.wales.gov.uk/childrenfirst or www.cymru.gov.uk/rhioplantynyntaf.

The review of the Curricula began in the Summer of 2001, this will look to take into account the needs of all young people.

CARERS AND EMPLOYMENT

2.19 Many carers will be working when the need to care arises and most will wish to continue to work. The UK Strategy 'Caring About Carers' 2000 suggests that half of all working carers spend over five hours per week on informal care, with 20 per cent caring for more than 20 hours.

2.20 Paid work is important to carers for many reasons:

- Financial independence;
- Covering the costs of caring;
- Giving an external focus and source of satisfaction;
- Maintaining social networks and friendships;

Self esteem.

2.21 If carers have to reduce significantly the hours that they work, or give up work altogether, the financial and emotional implications can be far-reaching. Carers who stop work face an immediate reduction in income and the loss of companionship at work. A period without pension contributions is likely also to have long-term implications for financial well-being. The impact on women may be disproportionately large, especially if they have already had a period out of paid employment whilst caring for young children. Social exclusion is a real possibility for many carers.

2.22 Activity is in hand to try to overcome some of the potential difficulties. We applaud the work of the ONE pilot in Gwent which offers help to carers within the pilot area to remain in touch with work. This is done via the ONE gateway which provides access to a personal advisor and support from the Employment Service, Benefits Agency and local authorities. This is helping carers whose caring role has ended to return to work if that is what they want. There are 12 pilots across the UK, including South East Gwent (Monmouthshire, Torfaen and Newport) where the project team is in contact with carers organisations such as Carers National Association Wales and Torfaen Crossroads.

2.23 With other partners in the UK Work-Life Balance Campaign launched in March 2000 the National Assembly is promoting the business case for employment practices to be more carer-friendly.

Action and Activity Identified In 'Caring About Carers', July 2000

- 4 We will encourage all employers to recognise and respond to the needs of carers they employ. The National Assembly aims to set the standard in carer-friendly employment policy.

The Carers Strategy has been drawn to the attention of the Business Partnership Council.

- 4 The National Assembly for Wales will continue to review and develop its existing policies on carer breaks, special leave, and home working to assist with carer responsibilities and will keep staff informed on carers' issues.

The Assembly offers its employees a range of flexible working options and benefits that were widened on 1st April 2001 to provide additional flexibilities for staff to balance their work and home lives.

- 4 We will also work with our Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies (ASPBs) to encourage them to adopt carer-friendly policies.

All Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies have been sent letters drawing their attention to 'Caring About Carers', July 2000. The strategy was well received, a number of ASPBs have expressed their intention to adopt carer-friendly policies, put in place initiatives to overcome issues that carers face. They also advise that they are willing to monitor their own practices to ensure carers are not disadvantaged in areas including training and development.

- 4 We will ensure that the NHS Human Resource Strategy which is currently being developed, fully reflects the needs of carers who are employees of the NHS. In particular the review of employment policies and practices will seek to develop innovative approaches including flexible, family friendly policies which recognise the responsibilities of carers.

The NHS Human Resource Strategy recognises the importance of employees who are carers. The objectives for 2001-02 are being developed from 'Improving Health, A Plan for the NHS with its partners', February 2001, which states that; (i) Lifelong learning must be flexible enough to cope with the needs of carers; (ii) In taking forward the Job Design agenda, special attention will be given to those who have responsibilities for looking after others; (iii) Primary carer-contractors will be encouraged to adhere to good employment practice. This should include employee friendly policies such as recognition of carers' responsibilities; (iv) By September 2001, Human Resources Innovation Teams will have been established which will be responsible for identifying, assessing, publicising and promoting good practice and ensuring that remedies are in place in organisations where such good practice does not exist.

Employment

Additional Action and Activity:

4 The EQUAL project for Carers in Work

The EQUAL European Initiative will help to improve the position of carers in employment. EQUAL will be available throughout Wales and will provide 50% ESF support towards projects which test and promote new ways of combating all forms of discrimination in the labour market. Nearly 20 million euros will be available in Wales. 'The Wales Equal Implementation Plan'¹³ (has 8 themes, 2 of which specifically cover carers:

Theme A - facilitating access and return to the labour market for those who have difficulty in being integrated or re-integrated into the labour market – where one of the identified priorities is piloting new ways of improving dependent care, including young carers, to enable carers to access and return to the labour market and helping employers to develop more carer-friendly employment practices;

Theme F – supporting the adaptability of firms and employees to structural change and the use of information technology and other new technologies – where one of the priorities is developing innovative ways of working with employers to support job retention, using technology, to support various groups including people with caring responsibilities.

New Deal for Partners was extended on 23 April 2001 to include partners of people who have been claiming Income Support, Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance and Invalid Care Allowance for six months or more. As a result there will be many carers amongst the client group now eligible to join this voluntary programme. The extension is very welcome, adding a further measure to help tackle Wales' high level of economic inactivity whilst also providing additional help to a group who can be particularly vulnerable and who may have felt return to work was unfeasible.

¹³Additional copies available from Bob Waller, Training, Skills and Careers, Cathays Park, Cardiff, telephone number 029 20 82000 and on the web site www.wefo.wales.gov.uk

CHAPTER 3: EVALUATION AND REVIEW OF THE CARERS' STRATEGY IN WALES

3.1 The objective of the 'Caring About Carers' 2000 is to improve in the longer term the health and well-being of carers and those for whom they care. However measurement of outcomes for carers is not straightforward. 'Caring About Carers' 2000 seeks to acknowledge and support carers in their diverse roles. Most social care performed by families and carers is not quantified and it will be difficult to establish a comprehensive measure or set of measures. The Implementation Plan is about support and information. It is about raising awareness and working with carers and their representatives to provide the evidence to develop and plan more action and activity in future years.

3.2 Assessment and evaluation are nonetheless important and 'Caring About Carers, the Carers' Strategy in Wales Implementation Plan' will be subject to quantitative and qualitative assessment.

2000-2001

Quantitative

- 4 Professor David Felce of the Welsh Centre for Learning Disabilities has recently reported on research which the Assembly commissioned in 2000 to identify baseline data of the number and type of breaks for carer provided by local authorities.
- 4 Local authorities are required to report annually in detail on the use of the resources allocated to them under the Carers' Special Grant. The first local authority reports were submitted to the Assembly at the end of May 2001. Together with Professor Felce's finding these reports will be used to establish the quantitative impact of the Carers' Special Grant.
- 4 All findings will be discussed with the Carers' Strategy Review Panel and will be publicly available.
- 4 Local Government Policy Agreements – As part of the Local Government Performance Indicators – Best Value monitoring regime performance indicators for Social Services in Wales are being introduced that will monitor the extent to which carers needs are being assessed and met by local authorities. The National Assembly will review the 'Best Value' monitoring regime annually and the perspective of Carers will be taken into account in the review of performance indicators relating to social services.

- 4 Policy agreements between individual local authorities and the National Assembly set out the objectives which reflect shared aspirations of key outcomes. One of the prime indicators in those agreements is that older people live in comfort and dignity in their own homes wherever possible, by providing support that also recognises the role and wishes of carers. Prime indicators for this include the proportion of older people and their carers receiving a statement of needs and how they will be met.
- 4 As part of the SSIW Performance Management project, all authorities will be implementing from 2001-02 'Referrals Assessments and Packages of Care' standards for information which has been developed by the Department of Health. This includes reference to assessments for carers (whether assessed separately or alongside the client) and the provision of overnight respite care and short breaks in other areas where carers support clients. Services will be provided in support of both the client and carer and it would not be appropriate to seek to distinguish or apportion services which meet the needs of the carers' specifically.

Qualitative

Carers' Review Panel has been established. The Review Panel has helped undertake an annual review of the Implementation Plan.

Evaluation 2001-2 and thereafter

- 4 As part of the monitoring process, we need to obtain more information on the level and quality of services provided to carers. This will be done in partnership with carers organisations and local government.
- 4 The Review Panel's assessment will continue to inform the Minister's annual report of the Carers' Strategy in Wales – Implementation Plan.
- 4 The National Assembly is currently considering commissioning wide ranging qualitative research to be undertaken over a period of around 3 years to ascertain the difference the Strategy has made to the lives of carers and those for whom they care. This work will be undertaken in collaboration with the Carers' Strategy Review Panel.
- 4 We will use data from the Welsh Health survey to track changes in the health and well-being of carers.
- 4 We will use the 2001 Census results to inform policy making as it affects carers and those for whom they care.

Highlights of Local Authority Carers Special Grant Plans

Annex A

Name of Authority E-mail: glls@anglesey.gov.uk	Anglesey County Council	Name of Contact: Mr Gareth Llwd	Tel: 01248 752708 Fax: 01248 752705
Grant Alllocated	£72,800		
Number of schemes	Five		
Examples of schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Working in partnership with the Alheimers Disease, Society and Age Concern Gwynedd and Mon. Develop two pilot projects to provide day care at weekends for people with Dementia and provide transport to attend the day care.ii. Working with the NSF to increase and enhance the capacity to enable carers to attend support group, leisure and educational activities.iii. Enhance the pool of care attendants to provide sitting services during the evenings and at weekends, linking with Ynys Mon Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme.		

Name of Authority E-mail: jan.scrivens@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	Name of Contact: Jan Scrivens	Tel: 014953 55793 Fax: 01495350719
Grant Alllocated	£76,938		
Number of schemes	Four		
Examples of schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. To extend respite day care at weekends to those people with dementia and functional carers.ii. Establish respite care during evenings and weekends for the carers of deaf people who rely on their carers for social stimulation and socialism. The additional respite care will enable carers to enjoy some leisure time with their families.iii. Project planned to enhance the independence of people with a visual impairment, which in turn will relieve carers from undertaking specific tasks currently being performed.		

Name of Authority Email: mcnulb@bridgend.gov.uk	Bridgend County Borough Council Name of Contact: Miss Bridle McNulty	Tel: 06156 642203 Fax: 01656648689
Grant Allocated £128,334		
Number of schemes seven		
Examples of schemes		
i. Crossroads,		
ii. Trinity Care Club, to provide localised carer breaks by providing day services and additional hours sitting service.		
iii. Community Services Support team, to extend the current service by providing additional care attendant hours.		
iv. Develop a young carers club, provide a range of leisure and recreational activities		
v. Partnership project to provide weekend respite day care services for younger people with dementia.		

Name of Authority	Caerphilly County Borough Council Name of Contact: Glyn Carpenter	Tel: 01443 864609 Fax: 01443 3864513
Grant Allocated £160,777		
Number of schemes Thirty six schemes to support		
Examples of schemes		
(i) Family advisory service Develop current service provision with Mencap.		
(ii) Sitting Service for carers of adults with learning disability; provision for additional hours in response to high demand for this type of service		
(iii) Children and Youth Partnership Funding Satellite Youth groups increase capacity.		
iv. NHC Caerphilly playscheme, support to be provided for an extra week for 60 children		
v. Working with Mencap Integrated Leisure to provide an increase by 1 day per week per child for Summer playschemes in support of adult carers of children with a disability.		

Tel: 01267 228789
Fax: 01267221341

Name of Contact: Mike Catling

Name of Authority Carmarthenshire County Council

Email: MCatling@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

£203,200

Grant Allocated

Number of schemes

Thirteen

Examples of schemes

- i. Partnership with Barnardos, support to 90 young carers
- ii. Working with NSF Cymru to provide support for 30 carers of adults experiencing mental illness
- iii. Working with Crossroads to provide care attendant Service
- iv. Partnership with NHS Trust to provide an EMI Day Care facility to support 40 carers per week.
- v. Working with the Megan and Trevor Griffiths Trust to provide leisure and respite care breaks for at least 1000 carers of adults with learning disabilities

Tel: 01545 572600
Fax: 01545 5572619

Name of Contact: Margaret Hands

Name of Authority Ceredigion County Council

Email: margareth.ceredigion.gov.uk

£68,029

Grant Allocated

Number of schemes

Four

Examples of schemes

- i. Working with Ceredigion Crossroads to provide additional support to carers within their home
- ii. Ceredigion Seiblaent Project: Providing short term breaks to Carers of people experiencing serious mental illness, including Home befriending activities and a Carers Befriending Group.
- iii. Family Aid services, to purchase additional hours to support learning disability clients in their own home
- iv. To provide additional breaks to carers of children with a physical disability and challenging behaviour.

Name of Authority

Email: p.k.biant@cardiff.gov.uk

City and County of Cardiff Council

Name of Contact: Ms Prithpal Biant

Tel: 02920 873628

Fax: 02920 873605

Grant Allocated

£283,000

Number of schemes

Four

Examples of schemes

i. Children with physical Disabilities.

Respite services either within a link family or within a residential setting.

A scheme to develop a creche facility will be explored allowing carers short breaks of 1 to 3 Hours.

ii. Carers of people affected by Mental illness.

Respite for this group of people will be explored using the befriending model but with paid rather than volunteer workers. This will ensure reliability and continuity, crucial to this client group.

iii. Young Carers.

Two areas to be explored in year one.

To work with the voluntary sector to set up a Young Carers Club with appropriate activities. To bring young people of similar experience together and work on Services they would like to see developed.

Provide for a number of Young Carers to go on an adventure weekend to provide a break and continue the work above.

Name of Authority

Email: Heather.Hughes@swansea.gov.uk and Morag.Firth@swansea.gov.uk

City and County of Swansea Council

Name of Contact: Heather Hughes & Morag Firth

Tel: 01792 636645

01792 636289

Fax: 01792 636807

Grant Alllocated

£242,572

Number of schemes

Seven

Examples of schemes

i. Link with the Princess Royal Trust for carers Centre to provide day care and sitting services.

ii. Link with the Alzheimers Disease Society to provide respite care for older people with Dementia.

iii. Link with West Glamorgan Crossroads to provide a flexible sitting service for older people.

Name of Authority	Conwy County Council	Name of Contact: John Williams	Tel: 01492 574061 Fax: 01492 874739
Email:	john.d.williams@conwy.gov.uk		
Grant Allocated	£147,000		
Number of schemes	Three		
Examples of schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Develop Tir na Nóg to enable response to range of needs, expanding the range of services provided. ii. Develop after school and weekend activities for approximately 50 children with learning disabilities. 		

Name of Authority	Denbighshire County Council	Name of Contact: Ms Sheila Lyons	Tel: 01824 706636 Fax: 01824 706646
Email: to be confirmed	shella.lyons@denbighshire.gov.uk		
Grant Allocated	£110,119		
Number of schemes	Eight		
Examples of schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Overnight and weekend break sessions Working with Crossroads to develop additional respite breaks (ii) Community Link house Increase in provision for respite care for adults with a learning disability, the service may also provide a first step towards future independent living. (iii) Service in support of people with a serious mental illness Grant aid to provide a flexible range of structured social opportunities for this user group, offering choices to best meet the needs identified. 		

Name of Authority	Flintshire County Council	Name of Contact: Roger Porter	Tel: 01352 702531 Fax: 01352 701499
Email: RogerPorter@flintshire.gov.uk			
Grant Allocated	£114,311		
Number of schemes	Seven		
Examples of schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Development of additional home support for people suffering from Dementia and Mental Health Problems. ii. Night time sitting services to cover a number of client groups iii. Respite care breaks for Carers of children with behavioural problems and life threatening illness 		

Name of Authority	Gwynedd County Council	Name of Contact: Mr Arwel Wyn Owen	Tel: 01286 679985 Fax: 01286 677486
Email: ArwelWynOwen@gwynedd.gov.uk			
Grant Allocated	£B6,244		
Number of schemes	Nine		
Examples of schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. NSF Seibiant Project, short term breaks to carers of people with mental illness. Services tailored to individual needs. ii. Develop young carers project, will also facilitate progress towards Children First objectives. iii. Develop emergency respite services for adults and children within their own homes. 		

Tel: 01685 724680
Fax: 01685 384868

Name of Contact: Michelle Price

Name of Authority Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

Email: socialservices@merthyr.gov.uk

£62,983

Grant Allocated

Number of schemes

Five

Examples of schemes

- i. To enable carers of cancer patients to have a break by funding residential breaks
- ii. Jointly with Crossroads to provide carers short term breaks, extended breaks, family support, and befriending
- iii. to provide opportunities for young carers where there is evidence of mental illness and drug/alcohol misuse within the home to become involved in day/residential groups.

Tel: 01633 644600
Fax: 01633 644577

Name of Contact: Anne Shoring

Name of Authority Monmouthshire County Council

Email: anneshoring@monmouthshire.gov.uk

£74,850

Grant Allocated

Number of schemes

Four

Examples of schemes

- i. Out of hours services for children with disabilities
- ii. to work with voluntary organisations to provide breaks in various forms

Name of Authority Email: Ann.Martin@newport.gov.uk	Newport County Borough Council	Name of Contact: Ann Martin	Tel: 01633 23352 Fax: 01633 23372
Grant Allocated	£12,795		
Number of schemes	Three		
Examples of schemes to be confirmed			
Examples of schemes			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Linking with Crossroads to enable young carers to participate in away days for confidence building and opportunities for social interaction. ii. Working with NSF to provide breaks for carers of adults with Mental Health problems, enabling the service users to participate in activities outside the family home. iii. Care provided in the service users own home environment for sufferers of dementia. 		

Name of Authority Email: anne.nicholson@pembrokeshire.gov.uk	Pembrokeshire County Council	Name of Contact: Anne Nicholson	Tel: 01437 775305 Fax: 01437 776492
Grant Allocated	£114,672		
Number of schemes	Eight		
Examples of schemes			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To provide care for the person being cared for in their own home, thus enabling carers to take a break ii. To provide a paid carer to cover overnight stays within the home. iii. Social provision for carers to continue, renew or take up interests providing a sit in service within the home. 		

Name of Authority Powys County Council
Email: jillwhite@powys.gov.uk
Tel: 01597 827651
Fax: 01597 827555

Name of Contact: Jill Whitehead

Grant Allocated £126,888

Number of schemes
Ten

Examples of schemes

- i. To provide breaks for carers using services provided by local voluntary organisations
- ii. Offer carers good quality and flexible breaks for all types of service users

Name of Authority Rhondda Cynon Taff
Email: nigelbillingham@rhondda-cynon-taff.gov.uk
Tel: 01443 407582
Fax: 01443 407582

Name of Contact: Mr Nigel Billingham:

Grant Allocated £253,356

Number of schemes

Five proposals submitted

Examples of schemes

- (i) Parent/Carer – Children with Disabilities

Overall intention to ensure that children with autistic disorder, complex physical/sensory impairments and learning difficulties receive support appropriate to their needs.

- (ii) Young Carers

Develop young carers projects providing support, organise high profile conferences to raise awareness of issues affecting young carers

- iii) Transition to Adulthood Scheme

Link with VIVA, a voluntary organisation which aims to provide, encourage and support quality leisure and friendship opportunities on an equal basis between disabled and non-disabled young people between 11 and 25 years. The resultant breaks for carers are recognised as an added benefit.

Name of Authority Email: GillClark@torfaen.gov.uk	Torfaen County Borough Council Name of Contact: Gill Clark	Tel: 01633 648506 Fax: 01633 648794
Grant Allocated £86,190		
Number of schemes Five		
Examples of schemes		
i. Improve services to carers who provide care to people with dementia.		
ii. Work in partnership with voluntary organisations to support families of children under 19 who have a disability or serious illness.		
iii. Identify and develop services to young carers.		

Name of Authority Email: s.joseph@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk	Vale of Glamorgan Name of Contact: Ms Sarah Joseph	Tel: 01446 704705 Fax: 01446 704848
Grant Allocated £109,265		
Number of schemes Six proposals submitted		
Examples of schemes		
i. This will enable 6 pre – school children to have playgroup experience for 3 to 5 sessions a week to give parents a break.		
ii. Working with Barmados. In the first year, employ a recruitment officer Community Link Families to enable the placement of children with physical disabilities. Children will be placed for Short or Long term periods to give parents a break in subsequent years.		
iii) Working with Crossroads Provision of 250 respite care hours a month, to Parents/Carers of children with physical disabilities. The service is available 7 days a week and at any time. Service periods can vary from 1 hr per week to 3 to 4 hrs per day.		
iiii) Working with Ysgol Erw-r-Delyn School will provide breaks for 10 children of school age. There will be a choice from 2 full weeks to a night every 2 weeks according to the needs of the carers.		
iv. Establishing a Carers initiative officer. The initiative would access short term flexible respite services through home placement provision and a befriending service. It would also provide support and advice for individual carers to link with support networks. Initially the worker will identify carers not known to the existing services through contact with GP surgeries, hospital services and local networks.		

Name of Authority	Wrexham County Borough Council	Name of Contact: Barbara Garvey	Tel: 01978 292970 Fax: 01978 292880
Email:	Barbara.Garvey@wrexham.gov.uk		
Grant Allocated	£128,147		
Number of schemes	Eleven		
Examples of schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Linking with Crossroads to extend support services through range of activities: including training, Newsletter and general recreation. ii. Young Carers Project: Set up YC Club to raise awareness iii. Develop Childcare Partnership - break services to parent carers of disabled children during holiday periods. 		

Name of Authority	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	Name of Contact: T Clements	Tel: 01639 763684 Fax: 01639 763269
Email:	tclements@neath-porttalbot.gov.uk		
Grant Allocated	£161,900		
Number of schemes	Six		
Examples of schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To upgrade respite care unit ii. To introduce a flexible respite service for carers of older disabled people and people with learning difficulties and multiple sclerosis iii. New breaks for young carers to promote intergration and social activities. 		

CARERS STRATEGY REVIEW PANEL

Annex B

Mike Shanahan
Head of Social Care Policy
National Assembly for Wales
Cathays Park, Cardiff
Email: michael.shanahan@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Lynne Hamilton
Social Care Policy
National Assembly for Wales
Cathays Park, Cardiff
Email: lynne.hamilton@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Martin Price
Social Services Inspectorate in Wales
National Assembly for Wales
Cathays Park, Cardiff
Email: martin.price@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Pat Vogt
Social Services Inspectorate in Wales
National Assembly for Wales
Cathays Park, Cardiff
Email: patricia.vogt@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Dr. Sheila Curran MBE
Carer and Trustee of Carers National
Association
201 Albany Road, Cardiff
Email: sheila.curran@ntlworld.com

Shirley Bowen
Crossroads Wales
3rd Floor, 49 Charles Street, Cardiff
Email: eirian@crossroads-wales.demon.co.uk

Yvonne Apsitis
Daybreak (Wales)
126/128 Llandaff Road
Cardiff
Email: yvonneapsitis@btinternet.com

Roz Williamson
Carers National Association
River House, Ynysbridge Court,
Gwaelod-y-Garth, Cardiff
Email: roz@carerswales.demon.co.uk

Keith Bowen
Contact a Family Wales
Tridents Court, East Moors Road, Cardiff
Email: wales@cafamily.org.uk

Peter Tihanyi
Princess Royal Trust for Carers
142 Minorities,
London. EC3N 1LB.
Email: pthanyi@carers.org.uk

Lynda Bransbury
Welsh Local Government Association
0/11 Raleigh Walk, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff
Email: lynda.bransbury@wlga.gov.uk

Dr. Lyndon Miles
Secretary, Local Health Group Chairs
Bryn Golau, Pentir Bangor. LL57 4UU
Email: lyndonmiles@clara.net

Jean Francis
Mencap Cymru
Unit 31, Cardiff Business Park
Lambourne Crescent
Llanishen, Cardiff
Email: jean.francis@mencap.org.uk

Ruth Marks
Chwarae Teg
Companies House, Maindy, Cardiff.
Email: ruth.marks@chwaraeteg.demon.co.uk

Catriona Williams
Children in Wales
25 Windsor Place, Cardiff
Email: catriona.williams@childreninwales.co.uk

Jim Crowe
SCOVO
5 Dock Chambers, Bute Street,
Cardiff
Email: Cardiff2@scovo.demon.co.uk

Tina Williams
Wales TUC Cymru
Carers in Work
Consultation Group
1 Cathedral Road, Cardiff

Mrs Sana Batro
Multicultural Crossroads/ All Wales Ethnic
Association
1A Maria Street
Butetown, Cardiff.
Email: not available at present

UK GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES WHICH HELP CARERS

Changes to Carers' Benefits from 1 April 2001

As a result of announcements made by the Government last Autumn, many carers across the UK will see changes to their benefits from the beginning of April 2001. These changes include:

- An increase of £10 per week in Carer Premium for carers on a low income who are in receipt of Income Support. From April 2001 Carer Premium will be paid at £24.40 per week.
- An increase in the earnings limit on Invalid Care Allowance to £72 per week. The earnings limit will increase each year in line with the National Insurance Lower Earnings Limit.
- An increase of £740 per week in Disabled Child Premium for parents of disabled children, on a low income. From April 2001 this premium will be worth £30 per week.

Other Benefits coming into effect later

- Carers over the age of 65 will be able to make a claim for Invalid Care Allowance (ICA) for the first time
- ICA will be extended for eight weeks after the death of the cared for person
- The name ICA is to be changed to Carers Allowance

The changes to Carer Premium and the Disabled Child Premium are increases over and above the expected annual uprating of benefits which takes place each year in April.

These changes could affect many carers for the first time. Further information may be obtained from local Benefits Agencies.

Annex D

Useful contact addresses and phones numbers

Carers National Association Tel: 029 2081 1370	Cruse 02089399530	
Crossroads Wales Tel: 029 2022 2282	Enuresis resource and Information Centre. 01179603060	
Contact a Family Wales Tel: 029 2044 9569	Help the Aged Senior Line	0808006565
Princess Royal Trust for Carers Tel: 020 7480 7788	Warmth in Winter	0808006565
Action for Elder Abuse 02087647648	MENCAP in Wales 02920747588	
Age Concern 02920371566	NHS Direct 08454647	
All Wales Forum for Parents and Carers 01633484067	Parentline Plus	08088002222
Alzheimers Society 02920431990	Princes Royal Trust for Carers	02074807788
Barnardo's Cymru 02920493387	Sane Line 08457678000	
CANDID 02078298772	SCOPE 08088003333	
Care and Repair Wales 01443755696 (Rhondda) 01443480245 (Taff Ely)	SCOVO 0292024092443	
Carer's Line 08088087777	Shelter Line 08088004444	
Carers National Association 02920811370	Wales Council for Blind 0292047394	
Charwae Teg 02920381331	Wales Council for the Deaf 01443485686 (Minicom) 01443485687 (Voice)	
Contact a Family 02920449569	Wales TUC Cymru 02920347010	
Crossroads 02920222282	War Pensions help line. 0800169227	