

Initial Equality & Poverty Impact Assessment 00324 (Version 1)

Service & Division:	Social Work Adult Services	Lead Officer Name:	Jennifer Faichney
	None	Team:	Planning, Performance and Policy
		Tel:	07483920653
		Email:	jennifer.faichney@falkirk.gov.uk
Proposal:	<p>Carer and Service User Involvement</p> <p>In March 2021, the Coalition of Carers, Carers Scotland, and Falkirk & Clackmannanshire Carers Centre delivered a pilot training programme for carers to increase carer engagement across the Partnership. The training helped prepare carer representatives to engage and contribute meaningfully in HSCP meetings and to discuss ideas and issues with other carers through the Carers Forum. Based on the success of the pilot training programme, we have extended the programme to both carers and service users.</p> <p>The training programme, which will be held over three sessions in April and May, has been designed and delivered in collaboration with the following key organisations: Coalition of Carers, Carers Scotland, Falkirk & Clackmannanshire Carers Centre, Inclusion Scotland, and Independent Living Association Forth Valley.</p> <p>The goal of the training is to increase our representation of people with lived experience and to get them involved in IJB and strategic planning meetings as well as operational-level service design meetings. The benefits of this include creating more meaningful participation since individuals, with a wide range of interests and knowledge, can choose how they want to participate. It also recognises the wide spectrum of lived experience for carers, service users, and supported individuals and brings together multiple perspectives and</p>	Reference No. (if applicable)	

experiences which benefits the Partnership with new learning opportunities to further improve how we deliver our services.

Additionally, having a wider group of representatives allows people to share the workload and time commitments required to prepare for and attend meetings. This reduces the demand on the same individual representatives to participate in activities and minimises the risk of engagement fatigue by ensuring people remain actively engaged in the Partnership.

It is important that we deliver this training because, as outlined in our [Participation and Engagement Strategy](#), involving people with lived experience to improve service delivery ensures they remain at the heart of provision and guarantees that we are taking a person-centred and human rights-based approach to engagement. This approach to engagement is highlighted in the Independent Review of Adult Social Care (IRASC).

To maintain momentum following the training, follow-up discussions with participants will identify interests so participants can be matched with relevant engagement opportunities to get involved. Ongoing support will be provided through the Carer's Forum and the development of a service user forum. This will also allow people to connect with others for peer support.

Following on from this training, we will also be developing staff training so we can embed engagement into service design by intuitively involving people with lived experience and effectively support individuals to participate.

Does the proposal impact on people? (If yes, a full EPIA will be requested)	No	If no, please explain why:	This training fulfils our commitments as outlined in the Participation and Engagement Strategy and in the Strategic Plan (where a full EPIA had already been completed).	
Lead Officer Signature:		<i>Jennifer Faichney</i>		Date: 04/03/2022
Chief Officer Signature:		<i>Martin David Thom</i>		Date: 06/04/2022