

Wiltshire Council

Council

20 February

Subject: Carers Strategy

**Cabinet Members: Cllr Jerry Wickham - Adult Social Care, Public Health and Public Protection
Cllr Laura Mayes - Children, Education and Skills**

Key Decision: Yes

Executive Summary

The Carers in Wiltshire Joint Strategy 2017 – 22 has been drafted following consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. This strategy details how we will deliver the commitment made in the Wiltshire Council Business Plan 2017 – 27 to increase support for carers through a new carer strategy that supports carers to care for as long as possible.

A multi-agency commitment has been made by members of the Health and Wellbeing Board to work together to recognise, support and promote the wellbeing of carers in line with the principles of the memorandum of understanding *“Supporting an integrated approach to the identification and assessment of carers’ health and wellbeing needs”* and through delivery of this strategy.

Proposal

To approve the Carers in Wiltshire Strategy 2017 – 22, to be published in March 2018.

Reason for Proposal

The draft Carers in Wiltshire Joint Strategy 2017 – 22 (Appendix 1) is intended to build on the progress since the publication of the Joint Wiltshire Carers’ Strategy in 2012.

Graham Wilkin, Corporate Director

Wiltshire Council

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**Cabinet Members: Cllr Jerry Wickham - Adult Social Care, Public Health and Public Protection
Cllr Laura Mayes - Children, Education and Skills**

Key Decision: Yes

Purpose of Report

1. This paper requests that, subject to the addressing of any concerns raised by the Children's Trust Commissioning Executive and during scrutiny by the Children's Select Committees, Cabinet be requested to recommend the draft Carers in Wiltshire Strategy 2017 – 22 to full Council in February 2018 and, subject to approval by full Council, this strategy be published in March 2018.

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

2. The Wiltshire Council Business Plan 2017 - 27 makes a commitment to increase support for carers through a new carer strategy that supports carers to care for as long as possible. This draft Carers in Wiltshire Joint Strategy 2017 – 22 details how we will deliver that commitment to Carers throughout Wiltshire. It is a strategy for all carers, including young carers and parent carers, and recognises the contribution made by carers to the sustainability of the health and social care system. It seeks:
 - To ensure that the strategic direction for the commissioning of health and social care services reflects both the contribution made by Wiltshire's carers, including young carers, to the health and social care system and our duty to meet carers' needs for support;
 - To maintain carers' health to enable them to continue caring (should they wish to);
 - To holistically identify the needs of carers and the people they care for and work together to improve individual outcomes for carers by taking a whole family approach;
 - To continue to invest in early intervention and prevention services to reduce, prevent and delay carers' needs for support;
 - To improve the identification of young carers, carers of people with needs relating to mental health and substance misuse;
 - To support communities to become more carer aware and supportive of carers living within them; and
 - To provide services that support carers in crisis.

Background

3. The Joint Wiltshire Carers' Strategy was published in 2012. The Council and the CCG have since worked together on the commissioning of services for carers and there is a pooled budget in place which supports this. Details of this progress, linked to the principles of the memorandum of understanding "*Supporting an integrated approach to the identification and assessment of carers' health and wellbeing needs*" can be found in Appendix 2
4. The Young Carers Joint Commissioning Strategy 2012-2015 is replaced by the Carers in Wiltshire Strategy with an ambition to offer more equitable support to young people providing care.
5. The Care Act 2014 and the Children and Families Act 2014 improved and extended carers' rights to assessment and support to meet their eligible needs. The Care Act focuses on carers aged 18+ who care for someone aged 18+ and the Children and Families Act outlines our statutory duties to assess and support young carers and parent carers.

Main Considerations for the Council

6. Nationally, the Strategy for Carers has been delayed and its publication, originally planned for autumn 2016, has been postponed. Initially, the revised publication date was late November 2016, and then spring 2017. The current position on the national strategy is that there is no firm timescale for its completion, however, an updated Wiltshire strategy is required to drive forward our commitment to carers and to take into account of the changes to our statutory duties since the implementation of the Care Act and Children and Families Act.
7. It is, therefore, proposed that this strategy be recommended to full Council in February 2018 and, subject to approval by full Council, be published in March 2018.
8. This strategy has been co-produced by the adult care commissioning lead for carers, members of the Wiltshire Carers' Action Group (WCAG), Wiltshire Carer Involvement Group (WCIG) and Wiltshire's carers. A wide-ranging consultation was undertaken including workshops (Trowbridge and Salisbury), a Healthwatch event in Chippenham, meetings with diverse smaller groups of carers at "Meet the Commissioner" events and an on line public consultation undertaken in April 2016. A workshop was held in November 2016 where members of WCAG and WCIG contributed to the creation of the strategy's implementation plan which has since been developed with input from both groups.

Overview and Scrutiny Engagement

9. The Health Select committee have endorsed the proposal in this report that Cabinet recommend the draft Carers in Wiltshire strategy to full Council next February, to be published, subject to Council's approval, in March 2018 with the addition of measurement for schools.

The Children's Select committee chair and vice chair have received a briefing on the strategy in place of it also being scrutinised by the Children's Select committee. The measurement for schools was be discussed further at this briefing.

Safeguarding Implications

10. Contractual arrangements with providers of carer support services commissioned to contribute to the delivery of this strategy contain, and will continue to contain, robust measures in line with council policy.

Public Health Implications

11. The 2011 Census (of England and Wales) identified that in Wiltshire:
 - More than 47,608 people said they provide unpaid care
 - 2,723 of carers (5.8%) are aged 24 and under
 - 11,876 of carers (25.1%) are aged 65 or over
 - 19.9% of carers provide 50+ hours of care each week

The priorities in this strategy supplement Public Health activities and initiatives as well as priorities identified by the Better Care Plan's Prevention Board.

Procurement Implications

12. Procurement of carer support services commissioned to contribute to the delivery of this strategy will be in line with procurement regulations and policies.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal (detailing conclusions identified from Equality Analysis, sections 4 and 5)

13. An equalities impact assessment of this draft strategy was undertaken in 2016. The strategy acknowledges the importance of the Equality Act 2010 which protects carers of someone who is elderly or disabled against direct discrimination or harassment because of their caring responsibilities as carers are "associated" with someone who is protected by the law because of their age or disability.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

14. There are no specific environmental or climate change considerations.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

15. If cabinet does not recommend this strategy to full council then the publication and implementation of this strategy will be delayed which will impact on our ability to deliver the commitment to carers in the Wiltshire Council Business Plan 2017 – 27.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

16. This is an ambitious strategy and a multi agency approach will be required to implement it. The risk associated with this have been mitigated by a strategic and senior commitment having been made to the strategy by members of the health and wellbeing board through the Memorandum of Understanding *“Supporting an integrated approach to the identification and assessment of carers’ health and wellbeing needs”*.

Financial Implications

17. Carer support services are funded from the carers pooled budget of £1,411,196 per year. The Joint Commissioning Board has committed to maintaining the pool at current levels for 5 years from 2018/19.

Legal Implications

18. The Care Act 2014 and the Children and Families Act 2014 improved and extended carers’ rights to assessment and support to meet eligible needs (including parent carers and young carers). Adults and carers have similar rights to an assessment on the appearance of needs. For most carers this means that the previous requirement to provide ‘substantial’ and ‘regular’ care will be removed. Carers and cared for persons, together with any other members of the family, may have a combined assessment to ensure a ‘whole family’ approach. Assessments will need to consider what else (apart from the provision of support) would help to meet desired outcomes.

19. The Children and Families Act 2014 includes a number of new measures to protect the welfare of children, including making young carers’ and parent carers’ rights to support from councils much clearer.

20. Local authorities must meet their duties to identify, assess and support young carers, young adult carers and their families. They need to work with other local organisations to make sure they are proactively identifying all young carers. They must make sure the assessment process meets the criteria set out in the legislation. They have to make sure that they join up the work of children’s services and adult services so that young carers and young adult carers benefit from professionals working together.

21. This strategy seeks to ensure that the council meets all statutory duties outlined in the Care Act and the Children and Families Act.

Options Considered

22. Consideration was given to delaying publication of this strategy until the updated national carers strategy was published. However, as there are no firm timescales for publication of the national strategy it is now felt that the risk of not publishing the Wiltshire strategy outweigh the risk of doing so.

Conclusions

23. Subject to the addressing of any concerns raised by the Children’s Trust Commissioning Executive and during scrutiny by the Health Select and

Children's Select Committees, Cabinet is requested to recommend the draft Carers in Wiltshire Strategy 2017 – 22 to full Council in February 2018.

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21 November 2017

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Carers' Strategy (Draft)

Background Papers

The following documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:

None