



Coventry City Council

Report

To: Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 17 October 2016

From: Pete Fahy, Director of Adult Services

Subject: Coventry's Draft Carer's Strategy 2016-19

1 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement from the Coventry Health and Well-Being board for the Carer's Strategy 2016-2019

2 Recommendations

2.1 Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

- Endorse the Coventry Carers Strategy noting the manner in which this strategy has been developed with a wide range of stakeholders
- Request that members of the Board take responsibility for arranging sign off of the Strategy through their respective governance arrangements

3 Background

3.1 A carer is someone who provides unpaid care for a family member or friend, who due to illness, disability, a mental health condition or an addiction, cannot cope without support.

3.2 One in ten adults are carers and the 2011 census identified that there are 32,101 carers in Coventry. Of these, 3,100 were young carers or young adult carers under the age of 25 with approximately 28% of these under 16 years of age. Approximately 25% of carers in Coventry said they were caring for 50 plus hours per week, which is in line with the national average. It is estimated that the economic value of the contribution made by carers is approximately £132bn a year nationally and £680m in Coventry.¹

3.3 The Care Act (2014) put carers on the same legal footing as the people they care for, and the Children and Families Act (2014) gave new rights to assessment for young

¹ [Valuing Carers 2015 – Carers UK](#)

carers and parent carers. NHS England's Commitment to Carers (2014) puts further emphasis on the need for carer support both locally and nationally.

3.4 Coventry has had a multi-agency Carers Strategy before with the most recent expiring in 2015. This new strategy would be Coventry's third Carers' Strategy. It applies to carers of all ages and builds on the progress and achievements already made, in addition to responding to requirements set out in the National Carers' Strategy Second Action Plan 2014-2016.

4 Developing the Strategy

4.1 The draft Strategy has been developed through a multi-agency approach including health partners and voluntary sector organisations who play a key role in supporting carers. The carer reference group has also been engaged to ensure the priorities contained within the strategy reflect what is important to carers and support the approach that the strategy reflects the four priorities laid out in the national carers strategy, which are:

- Identification and recognition
- Realising and releasing potential
- A life alongside caring
- Supporting carers to stay healthy

4.2 For each priority a number of improvement areas have been identified based on local carers' feedback and evidence of what support carers find most effective. These improvement areas are included in Appendix A and will be accompanied by an action plan to deliver. These improvement activities include:

- Developing and implementing a Carers' Charter
- Clarifying the pathway for carers and simplifying processes for registering and signposting carers
- Increasing Carers' Clinics and information available in GP surgeries
- Improved co-ordination with other parts of the health and social care system including urgent care and end of life care

4.3 Since the first draft was issued in June 2016 there has been further engagement with carers and other stakeholders through, two workshops one specifically for carers and one for other stakeholders and with representation from a number of councillors. Stakeholders have also had the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft strategy on-line.

4.4 The draft strategy has also been presented at various existing carers groups and meetings and has been considered at the Better Care Programme Board, Adult Commissioning Board, and the Children's and Young People Partnership Board to ensure appropriate organisational oversight of the work as it has developed.

4.5 Feedback has been very positive overall and the priorities and improvements were widely supported. The process of engagement has raised the profile of carers and generated a lot of discussion and interest in how the strategy will be implemented and how different organisations can support it over the years to come.

4.6 During engagement on the draft strategy there were some specific comments made about the layout and the complexity of some of the content in the draft strategy and this has now been updated in line with the feedback received. Changes include:

- Re-writing some of the text to make it clearer that the strategy relates to carers of all ages and to pick out some of the key challenges/issues for particular groups of carers (e.g. young carers, older carers, carers of people with mental ill-health)
- Changing or explaining particular words that might be confusing (this will also be supported by an online glossary on the Carers Strategy web pages)
- Separating out some of the text and making some of the headings clearer to make it easier to read

4.7 The draft strategy now includes referencing to links with the Sustainability and Transformation Programme to ensure synergy with this major change programme across the health and care system.

4.8 There are no direct financial implications associated with the strategy as improvements are expected within the existing financial envelope. However, ensuring the priorities identified in the strategy are delivered may mean changes to how resources used to support carers are deployed. The ability to continue to fund carer support at its current level will need to be considered in the context of the overall resources available to the City Council and health partners and the requirements to deliver our statutory responsibilities.

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Appendices

Appendix A: Key Priorities and Improvement Areas

Appendix B: The draft Carer's Strategy

