

Cabinet

1st November 2016

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Adult Services – Councillor Abbott

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director for People

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title: Coventry Carers' Strategy 2016 - 2019

Is this a key decision?

Yes.

The strategy has implications for citizens across the City.

Executive Summary:

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. The 2011 census identified 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

This is 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.

The strategy has been developed through a multi-agency approach including health partners and voluntary sector organisations that play a key role in supporting carers. Carers and other stakeholders have also been engaged to ensure that the priorities contained within the strategy reflect what is important to them and support the four priorities laid out in the national carers' strategy, which are as follows:

1. Identification and recognition
2. Realising and releasing potential
3. A life alongside caring
4. Supporting carers to stay healthy

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

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 annual Implementation Plans which will clarify how activity across a range of organisations will support and contribute towards these improvement areas.

The Strategy also supports the Coventry Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2019 objectives, these being:

- Working together as a Marmot City: reducing health and wellbeing inequalities
- Improving the health and wellbeing of individuals with multiple complex needs
- Developing an integrated health and care system that provides the right help and support to enable people to live their lives well.

The actions associated with the Strategy are intended to be delivered within the current combined resources of the City Council and its key partners.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Formally approve the Coventry Carers' Strategy 2016 -2019

List of Appendices included:

Appendix A - Summary of Priorities and Improvement Areas
Appendix B - Coventry Carers' Strategy 2016 -2019
Appendix C - Equalities and Consultation Analysis

Other useful background papers:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

Coventry Health and Well Being Board 17 October 2016

Will this report go to Council?

No

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Report title: Coventry Carers Strategy 2016-2019

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 One in ten adults are carers² and the 2011 census identified 32,101 residents in Coventry providing some form of unpaid care. Of these, 3,100 were young carers or young adult carers under the age of 25. About 28% of young carers were under 16 years of age. About a quarter of carers in Coventry said they were caring for 50+ hours per week. This is about the same as the England average. The number of carers is not static as each year people will adopt new caring responsibilities and for some, existing responsibilities will cease.
- 1.3 It is estimated that the economic value of the contribution made by carers is approximately £132bn a year nationally and £680m in Coventry.³ This equates to the cost to the public purse should family carers be paid for the support that they provide.
- 1.4 This is Coventry's third Carers' Strategy, it covers carers of all ages and builds on the significant progress and achievements achieved through actions emanating from the previous strategies, in addition to responding to requirements set out in the National Carers Strategy Second Action Plan 2014-2016.
- 1.5 Development of the strategy has been led by a steering group whose members include representatives from Coventry City Council, Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group, University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire, Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust, Carers Trust Heart of England, Age UK Coventry and Alzheimer's Society Coventry. This partnership approach provides an excellent foundation for ensuring that carers in the City get the recognition and support required to continue in their valued role.
- 1.6 In developing the strategy we have compared what our local carers told us to feedback from carers nationally and have noted many common themes, which are reflected in our strategic objectives. Some themes that occur most regularly for carers are:
- Raising awareness so that carers are able to have access to the right support when it is needed
 - The need for high quality information, advice and support
 - More integrated working especially between health and social care, and between adult and children's services
 - Flexible support to help carers take breaks and help in emergencies
 - Training and learning – a chance to develop skills and knowledge
 - Opportunities to network and benefit from peer support from other carers
- 1.7 Young carers have also told us:
- They want to be listened to by professionals and be involved in discussions and decisions alongside the person they care for
 - They want to be supported at school and for teachers to understand how caring can affect them

² <https://carers.org/about-caring>

³ [Valuing Carers 2015 – Carers UK](#)

- 1.8 The strategic approach reflects the four priorities laid out in the national strategy, which are as follows:
- Identification and recognition
 - Realising and releasing potential
 - A life alongside caring
 - Supporting carers to stay healthy
- 1.9 For each of the above priorities 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 Implementation Plans which will clarify how activity across a range of organisations will support and contribute towards these improvement areas.
- 1.10 Carers in Coventry are currently supported in a range of ways including, drop-in services, help lines, clinics, training, assistive technology, short breaks and a carers emergency response service (CRESS).
- 1.11 In addition to the above recent developments in carer support in Coventry include:
- In June 2015 Coventry Crossroads and the Carers' Centre merged to form a new organisation called Carers Trust Heart of England, providing a single point of access for carers' support, with an Information, Advice and Support Service based at Coventry Central Library.
 - From April 2015 the Carers' Trust were commissioned to undertake Carers' Assessments on behalf of the Council. To date over 160 carers have received an assessment in this way with only around 5% needing further support from social care to deliver their outcomes following assessment.
 - This year Carers Trust Heart of England secured five years funding from Big Lottery to support its Young Carers Project along with funds from the national Carers Trust 'Time for Change' programme to support young adult carers in relation to enhancing education, training and employment opportunities over the next three years.
- 1.12 The Strategy also supports the Coventry Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2019 objectives, which are:
- Working together as a Marmot City: reducing health and wellbeing inequalities
 - Improving the health and wellbeing of individuals with multiple complex needs
 - Developing an integrated health and care system that provides the right help and support to enable people to live their lives well.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 The Carers' Strategy 2016 -2019 is an important element of implementing the requirements of the Care Act 2014 and demonstrates what the Council; Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group and partners are doing to support carers in Coventry and what the priority areas for future development are.
- 2.2 Other national developments such as NHS England's Commitment to Carers put further emphasis on the need for carers to be supported both locally and nationally, and this strategy seeks to embed these commitments locally across stakeholders.

- 2.3 To not have a carers strategy would risk that support for this important group of people is not properly considered or targeted on the areas that are of greatest importance to carers. For this reason Cabinet is recommended to approve this multi-agency Carers' Strategy 2016 – 2019.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 The strategy has been developed taking account of carers' views and feedback coming from the review of carers' services and support in 2014/15 in preparation for implementation of the Care Act and Children and Families Act. This included stakeholder workshops and carer workshops, a survey of carers and practitioners, on-line feedback, the results from the bi-annual Carers' Survey, local providers' customer surveys and the Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group Patient Involvement Programmes.
- 3.2 Since the first draft was issued for comment in June 2016 there has been engagement with carers and other stakeholders through further workshops one specifically for carers and one for other stakeholders. The opportunity for on-line feedback was also available.
- 3.3 As well as being presented at various existing carers groups and meetings. The draft strategy has also been considered by the Better Care Programme Board, Adult Commissioning Board, and the Children's and Young People Partnership Board to ensure appropriate organisational oversight and engagement of the strategy as it has developed.
- 3.4 Feedback obtained through these sessions has resulted in changes to the proposed strategy document including ensuring links with the Sustainability and Transformation Programme to enable synergy with the major redesign of the health and care system; improved emphasis on young carers within the document and support for alignment of resources to the priority areas.
- 3.5 Stakeholder feedback on the strategy 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.
- 3.6 Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board endorsed the draft strategy at its meeting of 17th October with the proviso of stronger referencing in the final document relating to the identifying and addressing the needs of older carers.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

Subject to approval, the strategy will be implemented over three years, 2016-19.

5. Comments from Executive Director, Resources

5.1 Financial implications

For 2016/17 dedicated resources to support adult, parent and young carers is approximately £2.3m. In addition to this dedicated resource, many services provided by the City Council also have an important role in supporting carers including home support and day opportunities.

There are no direct financial implications associated with the strategy. 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. The effects of future budgetary constraints upon both local authorities and the NHS are likely to lead to the requirement for further savings across all areas.

5.2 Legal implications

Both the Care Act (2014) and the Children and Families Act (2014) overhaul the statutory frameworks for the assessment of and delivery of support to carers of all ages. Both introduce a requirement to assess a carer's need for support if it appears to the local authority that the carer may have a need for such support, without any further pre-condition having to be satisfied. In addition, the local authority is under a general duty to identify carers with unmet needs for support and develop prevention and reduction strategies, in conjunction with its partners, to promote wellbeing within its communities. The Carers' Strategy 2016 – 2019, sets out the City Council's proposals to enable it to comply with its statutory responsibilities towards carers.

Public authority decision makers are under a non-delegable ongoing duty to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share the relevant protected characteristics (disabilities, age, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) under the Public sector equality duty, s 149(1) Equality Act (2010).

Decision makers must be consciously thinking about these aims as part of their decision making process, with rigour and an open mind. The duty is to have "due regard" not to achieve a result, but to the need to achieve these goals and consideration must be given to the potential adverse impacts and the measures (if any) that are available to minimise any discriminatory effects. Members must therefore ensure that they read all relevant papers to enable them to assess the risk and extent of any adverse impacts and the ways in which any such risk can be eliminated. This requires more than just an awareness of the equality duty, it requires rigorous analysis by the public authority, beyond broad options.

Other implications

5.3 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

<http://www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan>

This proposal would contribute to the Council's key objectives through a contribution to citizens living longer, healthier, independent lives.

5.4 How is risk being managed?

Other risks will be managed through the Carers Strategy Group and Joint Commissioning Boards.

5.5 What is the impact on the organisation?

There are no implications for the organisation identified at this stage.

5.6 Equalities / EIA

The strategy aims to improve the lives of carers via key strategic aims outlined above. The legislative framework places an added emphasis on providing equality of opportunity for carers and ensures that when undertaking a carer's assessment the local authority has to consider (amongst other factors) whether the carer has needs for support and, if so, what those needs may be, the impact of caring on the carer and the things that a carer wants to achieve in their own day-to-day life. It must also consider other important issues, such as whether the carer is able or willing to carry on caring, whether they work or want to work, and whether they want to study or do more socially.

An equalities and consultation exercise has been completed. This indicates that implementation of the strategy will have a positive impact on Carers in Coventry.

5.7 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

None

5.8 Implications for partner organisations?

The involvement of partners including health and the voluntary sector is essential to the agreement and delivery of this strategy. Organisations may be impacted if support to carers is required to change in order to deliver the aspirations contained within this strategy.

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