

# **HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

## **ADULT CARE AND HEALTH CABINET PANEL**

**TUESDAY 12 JUNE 2018 AT 10:00AM**

### **A CARERS STRATEGY FOR HERTFORDSHIRE 2018-2021**

#### Report of the Director of Adult Care Services

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Executive Member: Colette Wyatt-Lowe – Adult Care and Health

#### **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To inform Members of the draft Carers Strategy for Hertfordshire 2018-2021, which sets out the council's commitment to carers and describes the actions that the it will take to support them in their caring role.

#### **2. Summary**

- 2.1 The previous Hertfordshire Carers Strategy that covered the period 2015-2018 has been reviewed and refreshed. This report presents the new Carers Strategy that will be effective from 2018-21.
- 2.2 The Carers Strategy sets out the council's commitment to carers and describes the actions that it will take to support them in their caring role.
- 2.3 In the 2011 census 108,615 people in Hertfordshire identified themselves as carers, and the work done by carers across Hertfordshire is estimated to have a value of around £2 billion. Carers should be seen as a significant element of the care workforce in Hertfordshire, playing an important role in supporting people to stay at home, reducing hospital and care home admissions and supporting hospital discharges
- 2.4 Supporting carers is understood to reduce health and social care costs. As an example high levels of care in spousal carers are linked with a 23% higher risk of stroke and older carers reporting strain have a 63% higher risk of death in a year than non-carers/carers not reporting strain.

#### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 Panel is asked to note and comment upon the content of this report, and,
- 3.2 recommend to Cabinet that Cabinet approve the proposed Carers Strategy for Hertfordshire 2018-21.

#### **4. Background**

- 4.1 Section 10 of the Care Act 2014 provides a detailed framework for the assessment of and provision of services to Carers. The new duty arises where it appears that a Carer of someone who is resident in that local authority's area requires support to carry out their caring role.
- 4.2 Progress against the 2015-18 Carers Strategy has been monitored by the multi-agency Carers Planning & Partnership Group (PPG) which includes carer organisations and carer representatives. Key achievements of the 2015-18 Carers Strategy and ambitions for the refreshed strategy are set out in sections 4.6- 4.9 below. The PPG will monitor the actions included in the refreshed strategy and develop new actions and targets through the duration of the strategy.
- 4.3 The 2015-18 Carers Strategy was successful in reducing the time spent caring before seeking support from the County Council, from seven years in 2014 to 6 years in 2017. Some Carers told us that it was some time before they recognised themselves as Carers and the Strategy takes this forward through actions to reach Carers of all backgrounds more effectively.
- 4.4 The 2015-18 Carers Strategy implemented the elements of the Care Act relating to carers, for example through the introduction of Carer Practitioners and carer assessments. However some carers report that the purpose and outcomes of carer assessments are not always clear. The new strategy responds to this through actions to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of carer assessments.
- 4.5 A new process to register contingency plans with Adult Care Services was introduced in 2016; however carers still feel they need more individual support with future planning, not just for emergencies but also for a time when they are no longer able to continue in their caring role. There are actions in the new strategy to develop a more personalised planning process.
- 4.6 The 2015 -18 Carers Strategy recognised the impact of caring on health and wellbeing, and courses for carers were introduced to build skills in self-care, relaxation and safe lifting. The refreshed Strategy reflects growing awareness of the impact of stress on carers through plans to evaluate which interventions are most effective in improving carer wellbeing, and then promote those interventions.
- 4.7 Each Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS Trust within the county is developing or already has a Carers Strategy. The strategies

are all linked by a five step [Carers Pathway](#) which has been agreed across the organisations. Both CCGs have endorsed Hertfordshire's refreshed Carers Strategy.

- 4.8 The revised Carers Strategy continues to be for adult carers but is aligned to the Young Carers Strategy that has been developed by Children's Services in partnership with young carers.
- 4.9 The revised strategy supports the [Adult Care Services 15 Year Plan](#) which includes a specific ambition to "Place Carers at the heart of our approach, recognising and rewarding their contribution, giving them the skills they need to perform their role and at the same time maintain their own health and wellbeing"
- 4.10 The revised strategy also supports the [Adult Care Services 3 Year Plan](#) target to increase the Carers quality of life score as reported via the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework ('ASCOF') from 7.3 in 2017/18 to 8.3 in 2020/21.
- 4.11 The refreshed strategy has been co-produced with a wide range of stakeholders. Crucially the objectives have been set by carers themselves through two carer forums and feedback from the Annual Carer Survey.
- 4.12 Carer feedback on the challenges they face in achieving each objective is now directly linked to actions that respond to that feedback. Baseline measures and targets will continue to be established in partnership with carers

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There are no new financial costs specified by the strategy. The Carers Strategy for 2018-21 will be entirely funded from current resources that have been set aside from the existing budget.

## **6. Equalities Implications**

- 6.1 When considering proposals placed before Members it is important that they are fully aware of, and have themselves rigorously considered the equalities implications of the decision that they are taking. Rigorous consideration will ensure that proper appreciation of any potential impact of that decision on the County Council's statutory obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty. As a minimum this requires decision makers to read and carefully consider the content of any Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) produced by officers.
- 6.2 The Equality Act 2010 requires the Council when exercising its functions to have due regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The

protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation.

6.3 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken and is attached at Appendix 2.

6.4 There are no negative impacts to any protected characteristics.

#### Additional reports

Appendix 1: Carers Strategy 2018-21.

Appendix 2: Equalities Impact Assessment.

#### Background information

Care Act 2014: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted>

Hertfordshire Carers Strategy 2015-18:

<https://www.carersinherts.org.uk/downloads/have-your-say/consultations/586-hertfordshire-carers-strategy-2015/file>