



**ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE: 11 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**DRAFT LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND
CARERS' STRATEGY 2018–2021**

**JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS OF ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES,
CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

Purpose of Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of the results of public consultation on the draft joint Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Carers' Strategy 2018–2021 (attached as Appendix A), which sets out strategic priorities relating to unpaid carers of all ages.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

- 2 The Care Act 2014 replaces most previous legislation regarding adult carers and includes reforms of health and social care, and prioritising people's wellbeing, needs and goals. It gives local authorities a responsibility to assess a carer's needs for support and, where the carer appears to have such needs, to consider the impact of caring on their overall wellbeing.
- 3 The Children and Families Act 2014 gives young carers more rights to ask for support. A young carer's needs assessment must include an assessment of whether it is appropriate for the young carer to provide, or continue to provide, care for the person in question, in the light of the young carer's requirement for support, and their other needs and wishes.
- 4 On 10 October 2017, the Cabinet approved the draft LLR Carers' Strategy for consultation, and this had been developed as a joint Strategy including all local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) across LLR. This report described the range of support services for adult and young carers commissioned by the Adults and Communities Department and the Children and Family Service.
- 5 Other relevant policy framework includes:
 - The Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP);
 - Leicestershire County Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022;
 - Leicestershire Communities Strategy 2014;
 - The Leicestershire Adult Social Care Strategy 2016-2020;
 - Children and Family Services Commissioning Strategy 2016–2020;
 - Leicestershire County Council Provisional Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2018/19-2021/22.

Background

- 6 In June 2018, the National Carers' Action Plan was published, and this sets out how the government will improve support for carers in England over the period 2018-2020. The action plan puts a focus on current delivery ahead of the forthcoming social care Green Paper.
- 7 The LLR STP for health and social care recognises the critical role which carers play in supporting service users and its positive impact on reducing the need for formal public service intervention, and carers' own need for support.
- 8 The current local LLR Carers' Strategy across health and social care was implemented from 2012. Achievements have included carer awareness raising, particularly in relation to GP practices and in educational settings, the introduction of carers' assessments and personal budgets (for adult carers), access to advocacy for carers, and services to provide quality advice, information and support.
- 9 In light of the changed landscape for social care, both nationally and locally, it is imperative that unpaid carers are supported to continue in their caring role and to maintain their own health and wellbeing, facilitated by the approval of a new joint Carers' Strategy.

Local Context

- 10 It has been projected that between 2016 and 2041 (25 years) the total population of Leicestershire will grow by 16% to almost 790,000. However, this growth is not uniform across the age groups. It is expected that there will be an increase of 127% in people aged 85 years and over and an increase of 44% in people aged 65-84 years.
- 11 There will be a greater number of older people with complex care needs who will require input from all parts of the health and social care system. This will need to be supported by people providing unpaid care through informal caring arrangements. The number of carers in LLR is predicted to rise by 29% between 2015 and 2030 and across Leicestershire the number of carers over 65 is set to increase by 41% between 2017-2035.
- 12 There are currently around 70,000 carers in Leicestershire, 90% of whom are from a white ethnic background and 6% from an Asian/Asian British ethnic background. 57% of Leicestershire carers are female and 39% are aged between 50-64.
- 13 Census data from 2011 also shows there are over 3,500 young carers in Leicestershire, nearly 800 of whom are under 15 years of age. However, census data for young carers is generally considered inaccurate, as there are complex reasons why parents do not acknowledge their children as carers on a census form. National estimates suggest that as many as one in 12 children have caring responsibilities.
- 14 The Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) monitors how well care and support services achieve the outcomes that matter most to people. A Survey of Adult Carers in England is undertaken on a biannual basis, and asks about quality of life and the impact that the services received have on the quality of life. The responses

from the survey fed into the ASCOF scores and a number of measures relating to adult carers are derived from the survey.

- 15 In October 2017, the Cabinet resolved that the Director of Adults and Communities be authorised to take appropriate action in response to the engagement feedback received to improve the Council's response to adult carers, whilst further consultation on the overarching Strategy is completed. Leicestershire County Council's recent enhancements for carers have included:
- Dedicated adult carer support workers to enable access to appropriate support and to help carers navigate through the care system;
 - Simplification of the assessment process;
 - Increased access to respite provision;
 - Enhanced training for staff to increase identification, recognition and involvement of carers as partners in care planning;
 - Focus on the transition from children's to adults' services using the whole family approach to ensure a smooth handover;
 - Work with employers and carers (including young carers) to support them into further/higher education or employment.
- 16 It is intended that the Strategy will enable the Council not only to jointly deliver the vision for carers across LLR, but also to improve the carer's offer in Leicestershire, in line with the aims of the Leicestershire Adult Social Care Strategy 2016-2020 and the Children and Families Commissioning Strategy 2016-20.

Public Consultation Feedback

- 17 The vision for the draft Strategy was developed from extensive carer engagement, and is for unpaid carers of all ages to be identified early, feel valued, respected and supported.
- 18 Following the Cabinet's approval to proceed to public consultation, and similar approvals from the partner organisations, consultation was launched throughout LLR on 28 February 2018 and closed on 22 April 2018. The consultation was hosted by the County Council.
- 19 Views were sought from the general public, carers, service users, stakeholders and partners via:
- an online questionnaire;
 - a public event timed to permit attendance from working carers;
 - targeted consultation with carers currently accessing support from the Council.
- 20 The consultation was promoted in advance of and during the period to stakeholders and partners including the three local authorities, two Clinical Commissioning Groups, Healthwatch, Voluntary Action South Leicestershire, District Councils across Leicestershire, contracted providers, and the Leicestershire Learning Disability Partnership Board.

Overview of Consultation Findings for Leicestershire

- 21 The consultation report for Leicestershire is attached as Appendix B. In summary:
- 230 responses were received to the consultation, of which 69% are Leicestershire residents;
 - 63% of respondents are in receipt of some form of carers' service, for example, receiving a carers personal budget, attending a carers group or receiving other specific support for carers;
 - 73% of respondents felt that the Strategy reflects carer issues;
 - All the eight priorities set out in the Carers' Strategy were deemed as fairly or very important by over 90% of respondents;
 - 82% agreed that the priorities are the right priorities;
 - 79% of Leicestershire respondents agreed with the delivery actions; the majority wanted to see the individual action plans for comment alongside the strategy.
- 22 Although the response to the consultation was largely positive across LLR, it should be noted that the acceptability of the Strategy varied according to the cohort of respondents and the local authority area. The County Council will be asking the Cabinet to approve the final version of the Strategy on 16 October 2018, although following approval further work will need to be undertaken through engagement with young carers to ensure that their expectations of the strategy and implementation plans are met across the whole of LLR.

Consultation Outcomes

- 23 Outcomes of the consultation have influenced the final draft version of the LLR Carers' Strategy and the draft implementation plan for the County Council (attached as Appendix C).
- 24 The other partner commissioning organisations will also develop their own implementation plans based on the strategy consultation, and will take them through the relevant internal approval route alongside the final Strategy.
- 25 Implementation of the final Strategy and assurance of delivery against plans will be overseen by the LLR Carers' Delivery Group, which has a broad range of stakeholder representatives including from health and social care, voluntary sector organisations and Healthwatch.

Resource Implications

- 26 Within the Adults and Communities Department, funding for specific adult carers services include voluntary sector support, access to one off and regular personal budgets and respite provision. The budget for 2018/19 is £1,466,000 although some carers' support may also be delivered within the personal budget of the cared for person. Therefore this does not represent the totality of carer support costs.
- 27 In April 2017, further funding of £200,000 for each of 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 through the Improved Better Care Fund (IBCF) was identified to support an improved service offer for adult carers and delivery of these measures is underway.

- 28 The Children and Family Service commissions a voluntary sector provider to undertake carers' assessments and provide support to young carers across Leicestershire.
- 29 Although there are no specific resource implications relating to the overarching Strategy, the outcome of the engagement undertaken, the intended consultation, and the resulting implementation plan will establish commissioning plans for Leicestershire and ensure that Council resources are used to maximum effect in supporting unpaid carers.
- 30 The Director of Corporate Resources and the Director of Law and Governance have been consulted on the content of this report.

Timetable for Decisions

- 31 The final version of the Strategy will be presented to the Cabinet for approval on 16 October 2018.

Conclusion

- 32 The Committee is invited to comment on the report and the draft Strategy ahead of consideration of the final LLR Carers' Strategy and the Council's implementation plan at Cabinet on 16 October 2018.

Background Papers

- Report to Cabinet: 5 February 2016 – Adult Social Care Strategy 2016 – 2020 - <http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/g4599/Public%20reports%20pack%20Friday%2005-Feb-2016%2014.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10>
- Report to Cabinet: 13 December 2016 – NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan – <http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s125045/NHS%20Sustainability%20and%20Transformation%20Plan.pdf>
- Report to Cabinet: 10 October 2017 – Draft LLR Carers' Strategy 2018-2021 - <http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s132241/Draft%20LLR%20Carers%20Strategy%202018-2021.pdf>

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

- 33 None.

Equalities and Human Rights Implications

- 34 An initial screening assessment for the equalities and human rights impact was undertaken in 2017, and reviewed by the Adults and Communities Departmental Equality Group, and this indicated that once implemented the Carers' Strategy may have a positive impact on a number of protected characteristics. There were no further equalities and human rights impacts identified through consultation responses.

Relevant Impact Assessments

- 35 Implications for partnership working are highlighted throughout this report.

Appendices

Appendix A: Draft Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Carers' Strategy 2018-2021

Appendix B: Leicestershire Consultation Summary Report

Appendix C: Leicestershire Draft Implementation Plan

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