



**CABINET – 27 MAY 2022**

**DRAFT LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND  
CARERS STRATEGY 2022-2025**

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

**PART A**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Cabinet on the outcome of an engagement exercise, and to seek approval to launch a consultation on the draft joint Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Carers Strategy 2022-2025, during National Carers Week, the week beginning 6 June 2022.
2. The LLR Carers Strategy 2022-2025 is a joint Strategy which is being developed by Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council and Rutland Council and the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) across the LLR area.
3. The document is a refreshed version of the LLR Joint Carers Strategy 2018–2021 Recognising, Valuing and Supporting Carers. The aim of the refresh is to make the Strategy clearer and more accessible.

**Recommendations**

4. It is recommended that:
  - a) The outcome of the engagement report findings, attached as Appendix A, be noted;
  - b) The draft joint Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland (LLR) Carers Strategy 2022-2025, attached as Appendix B, be approved for a formal six-week joint consultation;
  - c) The draft action plan, attached as Appendix D, be noted, this will be published alongside the draft Strategy during the consultation period;
  - d) A further report be submitted to the Cabinet in the autumn presenting the outcome of the consultation, the final LLR Carers Strategy and supporting action plan for approval.

### **Reasons for Recommendation**

5. An engagement exercise undertaken during the summer of 2021 demonstrated that Leicestershire Carers continue to identify with the priorities contained in the 2018-2021 Strategy.
6. The Directors of Adults and Communities, Children and Family Services and Public Health require the Cabinet's approval to undertake a formal joint consultation alongside the partner Councils and CCGs on the priorities and actions identified for supporting unpaid carers.
7. Amendments may be required to the draft Strategy following the consultation.

### **Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)**

8. Subject to the Cabinet's approval a six-week public consultation will commence on 6 June 2022.
9. The Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee will receive a report as part of the consultation process at its meeting on 6 June 2022.
10. Partner organisations are progressing through their respective governance processes to ensure alignment with the planned consultation launch date.
11. The consultation outcomes, the final refreshed Strategy and an action plan for Leicestershire will be submitted to the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet in the autumn.

### **Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

12. The relevant policy framework includes:
  - The Care Act 2014;
  - The Children and Families Act 2014;
  - The White Paper - People at the Heart of Care: adult social care reform - December 2021;
  - Adults and Communities Department Ambitions and Strategy for 2020 – 2024;
  - Leicestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2032;
  - SEND and Inclusion strategy 2020-2023;
  - Leicestershire County Council Provisional Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2021;
  - Leicestershire County Council Strategic Plan 2022-2026.
13. The LLR Joint Carers Strategy 2018–2021 “Recognising, Valuing and Supporting Carers” set out eight key strategic priorities relating to unpaid carers of all ages, and was written as a joint Strategy by Leicester City, Leicestershire County and Rutland Councils and CCGs across the LLR area.

### **Resource Implications**

14. Within the Adults and Communities Department funding for specific adult carers services includes voluntary sector support, access to one-off and regular personal budgets and respite provision. The total spend for 2020/21 was £2.53m, consisting of £171,000 used to fund the carers support service across Leicestershire and £2.36 million spent through carers direct payments post carers assessment, although it must be highlighted that some carers support may also be delivered within the personal budget of the cared for person, therefore this does not represent carer support costs in its totality.
15. The Children and Family Services Department has an in-house service supporting young carers across Leicestershire.
16. There are no specific resource implications relating to the proposed consultation on the Strategy. Any additional resource implications arising from the outcome of the consultation and the resulting action plan will be reported to the Cabinet in the autumn.
17. The Director of Corporate Resources and Director of Law and Governance have been consulted on the content of this report.

#### **Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

18. This report will be circulated to all Members of the County Council.

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## **PART B**

### **Background**

19. The LLR Joint Carers Strategy 2018–2021 “Recognising, Valuing and Supporting Carers”, sets out eight key strategic priorities relating to unpaid carers of all ages. The priorities were built upon the feedback of carers across the LLR area and are set out in the diagram below:



20. Each partner organisation was responsible for their individual supporting delivery/action plans for delivery of the Strategy priorities (Appendix C to this report sets out the most recent review of Leicestershire’s plan). This plan has been used to drive improvements across the organisation including:
- Training sessions for staff working with carers;
  - Online carers assessment application system;
  - Dedicated carers team within the Customer Service Centre.
21. There have also been a number of collective achievements from the 2018-2021 Strategy including:
- Launch of the Carers Passport across the LLR area;
  - Quality markers introduced in GP surgeries;
  - Staff training around carer awareness, across a range of organisations;

- Information for carers reviewed and updated this includes web pages and information booklets;
  - Increase in the numbers of people on carers registers;
  - An LLR carers group working with Sortfied Community Interest Company (a social enterprise and consultancy) promoting carers engagement.
22. There remain ongoing challenges which will be addressed by the Strategy refresh, notably:
- Continuing to raise awareness of carers issues and promoting early identification of carers;
  - Ensuring information is updated regularly;
  - Involving carers at a strategic level in service planning and design.
23. The Government White Paper, “People at the Heart of Care: adult social care reform”, published in December 2021, builds on the national Carers Action plan 2018-2020 and is centred around three core strands:

**A. Working with the sector to kick-start a change in the services provided to support unpaid carers.**

- i. The Department of Health and Social Care has pledged to work with the sector (including local authorities) to further explore:
  - the different models of respite;
  - how respite services are accessed by carers;
  - any barriers to accessing these services that carers might experience.

**B. Identifying, recognising and involving unpaid carers.**

- i. Increase the voluntary use of unpaid carer markers in NHS electronic health records, including introduction of a marker indicating the presence of a contingency plan.
- ii. Creation of Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) to involve carers when exercising their commissioning functions, ensuring impact on carers is considered.
- iii. A new assurance framework for local authorities which will include assessing how local authorities are meeting the needs of unpaid carers.

**C. Supporting the economic and social participation of unpaid carers.**

- i. Tackling loneliness and improve the health and wellbeing of unpaid carers.
- ii. Plans to provide more choice and control to unpaid carers to help them to access and stay in work whatever their personal circumstances, including flexible working and the introduction of carer’s leave.
- iii. Young Carers - adult and children’s services need to work together and take a ‘whole family’ approach to the identification and support of young carers. Local authorities must now offer young carers assessments and consider young carers’ needs when assessing support for adults.

### Engagement with Carers in Leicestershire

24. It was originally intended to begin the refresh of the Strategy in the summer of 2020 but this was delayed due to the pandemic.
25. In the summer of 2021 work on the refresh began, through engagement with carers in Leicestershire and voluntary sector partners regarding the current Carers Strategy and their caring situations. This included an online survey, which received 62 responses, and group sessions where officers met with carers. Additional feedback was provided by the voluntary sector partners on behalf of some carers who had been unable to attend the meetings.
26. The progress of the County Council's current action plan was shared with carers. This detailed achievements to date and ongoing developments. The action plan has been used alongside the carer feedback to prepare the Strategy refresh and the subsequent supporting action plan for 2022-2025.

### Feedback from the Engagement

27. An overview of Leicestershire's engagement findings and next steps can be found in the engagement summary report attached as Appendix A.
28. County Council officers met with partner organisation leads across the LLR area to consider the outcome from the engagement. It was indicated that similar feedback themes had been received and the priorities should remain broadly the same as the existing Strategy, with some amendments to current priorities suggested.
29. The top priorities in the Strategy for carers were found to be:
  - Priority 7 - Carers can access the right support at the right time – Services and Systems that work for carers;
  - Priority 5 - Carers have a life alongside caring - Health, employment and financial wellbeing.
30. Carers do not identify particularly well with Priority 6, concerning carers and the impact of Technology Products and the living space. However, with the wealth of technology available, all organisations are keen to see this priority continues to be represented and have therefore suggested an alternative priority titled "Care with Confidence – Technology and skills supporting you to care effectively".
31. Feedback from Leicestershire young carers is not included in the engagement summary document, as it was received following production of the document. The young carers requested removal of Priority 8, Supporting Young Carers, as they would like to be recognised and included in all the other priorities, albeit as a recognised group with particular needs. However, young carers in other areas within LLR wished to retain a specific priority. It is therefore proposed to keep Priority 8 as currently drafted as well as including young carers in the other priority areas. It is hoped that by ensuring young carers get the visible

representation within priorities numbers 1 to 7 they are able to see the recognition they are receiving as part of an inclusive group.

32. A key element from the feedback was that the existing Strategy document is overly and unnecessarily long. It is intended that the refresh will result in a document that is simpler and easier to read whilst still clearly relating back to the original Strategy.

### **Next Steps**

33. Each partner to the Strategy is engaging in its review through their respective organisations. The plans for Leicestershire include:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
27 May 2022	Draft Strategy document and consultation paperwork to be presented to the Cabinet for approval.
6 June 2022 – National Carers Week	Launch formal consultation for six weeks, which will include a face-to-face consultation event.
6 June 2022	Meeting of the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (the Chairman and Spokesmen of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be invited to attend for this item).
17 July 2022	Consultation closes.

### **Consultation**

34. A formal consultation exercise will assure the partnership that the draft Strategy fairly reflects priorities from a carer perspective and will support the development of a more detailed action plan for Leicestershire.
35. It is intended that the consultation will be undertaken for six weeks beginning on 6 June 2022 and closing on 17 July 2022. The draft consultation documents are attached at Appendix E.
36. The consultation will seek the views of the general public, carers, service users, organisations that work with carers, and Council staff through an online questionnaire and via targeted group consultation with carers, particularly those who are currently accessing support from the Council.
37. The consultation will determine the final version of the refreshed Carers' Strategy for the coming three years, establish future action plans across the



partnership and set out specific actions for the County Council to address in Leicestershire.

38. The consultation findings will also further inform the County Council's approach to future support for adult and child carers, and guide future commissioning decisions.
39. The consultation outcomes, the final refreshed Strategy and an action plan for Leicestershire will be submitted to the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet in the autumn ahead of Carers Rights Day on 25 November 2022, when it is intended to launch the Carers Strategy refresh.

### **Equality and Human Rights Implications**

40. A comprehensive Equalities and Human Rights Impact screening assessment has been conducted and approved by the Adults and Communities Departmental Equalities Group. The Strategy was noted to have a positive impact on carers and all of the protected characteristics.

### **Background Papers**

Report to the Cabinet: 16 October 2018 – LLR Carers Strategy 2018-2021  
<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=5184&Ver=4>

Leicestershire County Council Strategic Plan 2018-22  
<https://bit.ly/3Pe6nh5>

Delivering Wellbeing and Opportunity in Leicestershire – Adults and Communities Department Ambitions and Strategy for 2020-24  
<https://bit.ly/3swoTal>

People at the Heart of Care: Adult Social Care Reform White Paper  
<https://bit.ly/3w7FfsE>

Leicestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2032  
<https://bit.ly/3L8nbTe>

SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2020-2023  
<https://bit.ly/3N8CJli>

Leicestershire County Council Provisional Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2021  
<https://bit.ly/39Pzw1L>

### **Appendices**

- Appendix A Review of Carers Strategy Engagement 2021
- Appendix B Draft LLR Carers Strategy 2022-2025
- Appendix C Current Progress - Strategy Review 2021
- Appendix D Draft Action Plan Leicestershire
- Appendix E Draft Consultation documents

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