

13



ADULTS AND CULTURAL SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 SEPTEMBER 2026

LEICESTERSHIRE CARERS STRATEGY 2026-2030

MINUTE EXTRACT

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Adults and Cultural Services presenting the outcome of consultation on the Leicestershire Carers Strategy 2026 to 2030. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 13' is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion, the following points were made:

- i. Members were advised that more than 160 people had responded to the formal consultation, in addition to approximately 300 people engaged during development of the draft strategy. Respondents broadly supported the priorities. Key issues included respite provision, loneliness and isolation, crisis support, support for working carers, and improved communication between adults' and children's services for young carers and parent carers.
- ii. A Leicestershire Carers Strategy Group would oversee delivery, with representation from Council services and health partners. Recruitment of a dedicated carers lead was under way and the commissioned carers support service was due to be reprocured. A progress update and developed action plan were proposed for submission to the Committee in approximately six months.
- iii. Members strongly welcomed the strategy and emphasised the importance of carers being listened to, recognised and valued. The Healthwatch representative welcomed the reflection of carers' views and sought assurance that the health sector would make corresponding commitments. Officers confirmed that health partners had contributed to the strategy and would participate in governance, but accepted that additional NHS commitments should be included in the action plan.
- iv. Members requested that the economic value of unpaid carers in Leicestershire be identified, alongside qualitative evidence of the difference made by support. Officers undertook to provide an indicative figure.
- v. The difficulty of reaching rural and isolated carers was discussed. Officers advised that the strategy and the proposed grant scheme included commitments to improve engagement and information in harder-to-reach communities. Members suggested greater use of parish councils, community organisations, charity shops and other local networks.

- vi. Officers undertook to work with parish councils and local communities as part of implementation. The importance of accessible information, advice and signposting in varied formats and locations was emphasised, including a concise item which carers could retain or display.
- vii. It was confirmed that the extension of the existing commissioned carers support contract to 31 March 2028 had been an officer decision made within the extension provisions of the contract.

RESOLVED:

That:

- a) The consultation results and the comments made by the Committee be noted.
- b) The Director of Adults and Cultural Services be requested to strengthen NHS commitments within the Strategy action plan.
- c) The Director of Adults and Cultural Services be requested to provide an indicative assessment of the economic value of unpaid carers in Leicestershire.
- d) The Director of Adults and Cultural Services be requested to work with parish councils, community organisations and other local networks to improve the reach of information and support for carers.
- e) A progress update and further developed action plan be submitted to the Committee in approximately six months.