



CABINET – 16 OCTOBER 2018

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

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

PART A

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Cabinet of the outcome of the consultation on the draft joint Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Carers' Strategy 2018–2021, and to seek approval of the revised Strategy and Leicestershire County Council implementation plan.

Recommendations

- 2 It is recommended that:
 - a) The outcome of the consultation on the draft joint Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Carers' Strategy 2018–2021, be noted;
 - b) The joint Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Carers' Strategy 2018–2021, and the implementation plan for Leicestershire County Council, attached at Appendix A, be approved.

Reasons for Recommendation

- 3 The landscape for social care, both nationally and locally, is changing. It is imperative that unpaid carers are supported to continue in their caring role and to maintain their own health and wellbeing. The new LLR Carers' Strategy will help to facilitate this.
- 4 The development of the LLR Carers' Strategy has been a substantial piece of partnership work over the last 18 months. Formal public consultation took place in early 2018 and the results are presented for noting with this report.
- 5 Subject to the Strategy being approved by the Cabinet and other commissioning partner organisations, it is intended that the Strategy and County Council implementation plan will be put into effect in Autumn 2018.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

- 6 The Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee was advised of the results of the consultation and commented on the draft Strategy at its meeting on the 11 September 2018. The spokespersons for the Children and Family Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee attended and Public Health were invited.
- 7 The other commissioning partner organisations (Leicester City Council, Rutland County Council, and the three Clinical Commissioning Groups [CCGs]) will take the Strategy and their own action plans through their appropriate internal governance route, with a target of completing all organisations' approvals during autumn 2018. Partners, including the County Council, will begin to implement their plan immediately following their organisation's approval.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

- 8 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.
- 9 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.
- 10 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 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 Services Department.
- 11 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 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2018/19-2021/22.

Resource Implications

- 12 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.

- 13 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.
- 14 The Children and Family Services Department commission a voluntary sector provider, with a value of £76,000 over a two year period, to undertake carers' assessments and provide support to young carers across Leicestershire. Young carers provided feedback on the proposals during the development of the Strategy and as part of the formal consultation.
- 15 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.
- 16 The Director of Corporate Resources and the Director of Law and Governance have been consulted on the content of this report.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

- 17 A copy of this report will be circulated to all members of the Council.

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PART B

Background

- 18 In June 2018, the National Carers' Action Plan was published, which set out how the Government would 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, which is expected in autumn 2018.
- 19 The LLR STP for health and social care recognises the critical role that carers play in supporting service users, the positive impact that this has on reducing the need for formal public service intervention, and the carers' own need for support.
- 20 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.
- 21 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.
- 22 The vision for the draft Strategy, developed from extensive carer engagement during the consultation, is for unpaid carers of all ages to be identified early, feel valued, respected and supported.

Local Context

- 23 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.
- 24 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.
- 25 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.
- 26 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.

- 27 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 was completed. The 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.
- 28 It is intended that the Strategy will enable the Council not only to jointly deliver with partners 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.

The Public Consultation Process

- 29 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.
- 30 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.
- 31 The consultation was promoted in advance of and during the period to stakeholders and partners including the three local authorities, two CCGs, Healthwatch, Voluntary Action South Leicestershire, District Councils across Leicestershire, contracted providers, and the Leicestershire Learning Disability Partnership Board.

Overview of Consultation Findings for Leicestershire

- 32 A detailed summary report of the Leicestershire responses to the consultation 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 identified 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.

33 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. Subject to the Cabinet's approval of the Strategy, further engagement with young carers will need to be undertaken to ensure that their expectations of the Strategy and implementation plans are met across the whole of LLR. Following feedback from the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11 September 2018, further detail has been added to priority 8 relating to young carers.

34 Whilst considering the consultation findings and the draft Strategy at its meeting on 11 September 2018, the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the draft Strategy and raised the following specific points:

- How Elected Members might further encourage engagement in consultation exercises in the future;
- The importance of ensuring that implementation is 'joined up' across all partners;
- The role of GPs in identifying carers and signposting them to services;
- Discussion of how the authority supports young carers, particularly with regard to balancing their caring responsibilities with their emotional and educational needs.

Consultation Outcomes

35 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).

36 The other partner commissioning organisations will also develop their own implementation plans based on the consultation findings, and will take them through the relevant internal approval route alongside the final Strategy.

37 Implementation of the final Strategy and assurance of delivery against implementation 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.

Equalities and Human Rights Implications

- 38 An initial Equality and Human Rights Implications screening assessment was undertaken in 2017. This indicated that once implemented, the Carers' Strategy will have a positive impact and that there will be no disproportionate effects on those with a particular protected characteristic. There were no further equalities and human rights impacts identified through consultation responses.

Other Relevant Impact Assessments

Partnership Working

- 39 The development of, consultation upon, and finalisation of the LLR Carers' Strategy has been a substantial piece of partnership work. Although the implementation plans have been produced and are to be agreed by the individual organisations comprising the partnership, this permits a local focus. The LLR Carers' Delivery Group will oversee and seek assurance on the implementation of actions by each body, and will track improvements towards the Strategy's priorities.

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>

Report to Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 11 September – Draft Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Carers' Strategy 2018-21 – http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s140097/4_Draft%20LLR%20Carers%20Strategy%202018-21.pdf

Appendices

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

Appendix B: Leicestershire Consultation Summary Report

Appendix C: LLR Carers' Strategy 2018-2021: Leicestershire County Council Implementation Plan

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