

**ALL AGE CARERS STRATEGY 2016-2020**

*To:* **Adults Committee**

*Meeting Date:* **12<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

*From:* **Adrian Loades, Executive Director: Children, Families and Adults Services**

*Electoral division(s):* **All**

*Forward Plan ref:* **For key decisions**    *Key decision:*    **No**

*Purpose:* **For the Adults Committee to consider the All Age Carers Strategy 2016-2020. The Strategy is attached at Appendix A.**

*Recommendation:* **The Committee is requested:**

- a) To comment on the All Age Carers Strategy 2016-2020.**
- b) To delegate authority to the Executive Director: Children, Families and Adults, to approve the strategy after it has been presented to the Children and Young People's Committee following discussion with the Chairman of the Adults Committee and the Chairwoman of the Children and Young Person's Committee.**

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## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Council's interim Carers Strategy 2014-15 comes to an end in December. The draft Carers Strategy 2016-2020 builds on this work and the support mechanisms and pathways that already exist.
- 1.2 The scope of the Strategy has been extended to include all Carers, including Young Carers and Parent Carers (a carer of a child or young adult aged 0-25 years who is disabled). The Strategy is being taken for approval to both the Adults and Children and Young People's Committees.
- 1.3 The Strategy has been co-produced with the engagement of Carers and partner organisations through a variety of approaches that took place between May and October 2015:
- An online survey
  - Face to face survey through Healthwatch and Shopmobility
  - A focus group held with Carers of people with Dementia
  - A specific survey for Parent Carers distributed through Pinpoint
  - Participation activities with Young Carers via Centre 33
  - A focus group with Carers involved in peer support
- 1.4 The co-production of the Strategy was facilitated through a 'task and finish' group comprising Carers, partner agencies and Carer/Strategic Leads from Cambridgeshire County Council. Organisation and administration was provided by Cambridgeshire Alliance for Independent Living who have also promoted engagement in developing the Strategy through the Carers Partnership Board and other service partnership boards in Cambridgeshire.

## **2.0 MAIN ISSUES**

- 2.1 The approach in the Carers Strategy is to raise awareness of Carers and the caring role and to focus on early intervention and prevention whilst recognising that some Carers will require more long term support. The legislative duties required by The Care Act (2014) and The Children and Families Act (2014) have been incorporated into this approach. The Strategy balances' meeting the needs of a growing Carer population with an increasing pressure on resources, as outlined in the Cambridgeshire Business Plan for 2016/2020, and is driven by different models of service delivery such as Transforming Lives and Think Family.
- 2.2 The Strategy sets out the framework and rationale for ten Strategic Intentions which will drive our approach to supporting Carers in 2016 – 2020. Some key Strategic Intentions are set out below.
- 2.2.1 *Carers are identified early to prevent an escalation of their needs* - Schools will have a key role to play in identifying Young Carers. The wellbeing of Adult Carers is a high priority and the provision of timely and appropriate support is essential to enable them to continue in their caring role.

- 2.2.2 *Increasing community resilience in Cambridgeshire* - Carers build on their strengths and the support they have from those around them, including the community – increasing the role of the community, friends and family in establishing ‘what if’ plans, developing ‘buddying’ schemes and better utilising the expertise of former Carers in supporting others.
- 2.2.3 *Provision of easily accessible information, advice and signposting to assist their caring role* – single point of access via new Countywide Carer Support Service.
- 2.2.4 *Safeguarding of Young Carers and recognising the need to protect them from inappropriate levels of caring* - Professionals working within adult services to identify Young Carers and consider their needs as part of whole family assessments. Supporting Parent Carers where appropriate according to Children and Families (2014) legislation.
- 2.3 The first draft of the Strategy was consulted on and overall feedback was very positive in regards to the outcomes being the right ones and the direction of travel being in-line with the wider direction of the Children, Families and Adults Directorate. Some changes were made as a result of feedback, including;
- Increasing references to guidance for health professionals on Carers
  - Clarifying links between the strategy and other CFA initiatives in development such as the Shared Lives scheme
  - Clearly defining a ‘Parent Carer’
  - Increasing the focus on children and young people who are undertaking caring responsibilities i.e. Young Carers
- 2.4 Adults Spokes requested that it would be useful within this report to update the Adults Committee Members on the work achieved to date on the implementation of the interim Carers Strategy 2014/15:
- The new Carers Countywide Support Contract which began 1st April 2015 is now firmly embedded and working well. The scheme offers comprehensive countywide support to Carers with easy single point of access for all enquiries.
  - 2,699 Carers have been helped as a result of the contract during the period April-end Oct 2015.
  - 1,123 new Carers were identified and supported during the same period. This support has included providing information, advice, and signposting.
  - 222 new Carers have received a Carers Assessment and help with support planning, underpinned by the prevention approach and the Adult Social Care Transforming Lives model.
- 2.5 Members are requested to note that the strategy will also be presented to the Childrens and Young Persons Committee (CYP) on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017 for approval.
- 2.6 To accommodate any amendments requested by Members of both the Adults Committee and the Children and Young People’s Committee, it is requested that delegated authority is given to the Executive Director: Children, Families and Adults to approve the final strategy after it has been presented to the

CYP Committee and following discussion with the Chairman of the Adults Committee and the Chairwoman of the CYP Committee

### **3.0 ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

#### **3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all**

- 3.1.1 Carers report difficulties in balancing their caring role with education or work and this can lead to having to give up work to care. Improving support to Carers will help them to remain in employment, education or training.

Supporting Young Carers and protecting them from inappropriate caring roles will improve attainment and reduce the likelihood of these young people becoming 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' (NEET).

#### **3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives**

- 3.2.1 Supporting Carers enables them and the people they care for to remain healthy and independent of services. In addition, supporting Young Carers can reduce negative longer term effects on their physical and mental health and contribute to their development as independent adults.

#### **3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people**

- 3.3.1 Carers are caring for some of the most vulnerable members of society including people with dementia, physical disabilities and mental health needs. Supporting carers can enable them to continue with their caring responsibilities and help to prevent them becoming vulnerable themselves.

### **4.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

#### **4.1 Resource Implications**

- 4.1.1 The Strategy is intended to be delivered within existing resources. It should be noted that because there has been a slower than expected demand on personal budgets for carers the Draft Business Planning proposals include a one off saving of £300K in 2016/17. This money will be available again to support the delivery of the strategy in 2017/18.

#### **4.2 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications**

- 4.2.1 The draft Carers Strategy has taken account of the statutory duties of the Council in respect of Young Carers, Parent Carers and adult Carers.

#### **4.3 Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 4.3.1 The delivery of support for Carers will take into account of the individual requirement of each person with regard to equality and diversity.

#### **4.4 Engagement and Consultation Implications**

- 4.4.1 The Strategy has been developed with proactive engagement of carers, supported by Cambridgeshire Alliance for Independent Living.

#### **4.5 Localism and Local Member Involvement**

- 4.5.1 The Strategy supports the empowerment of communities to do more for themselves. Spokes have been consulted in the development of this strategy and Members of the Council can all play a role in raising awareness of the important role and contribution of carers and signposting carers to Carers Trust Cambridgeshire for information and advice.

#### **4.6 Public Health Implications**

- 4.6.1 The Strategy will have an impact on maintaining the health and wellbeing of carers which was identified as a key area to be addressed in the Carers Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, 2014.

<b>Source Documents</b>	<b>Location</b>
None	

### **APPENDICES**

#### **Appendix A**

Draft All Age Carers Strategy 2016-2020