

ALL AGE CARERS STRATEGY 2016-2020

To: **Children and Young People Committee**

Meeting Date: **19 January 2016**

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

Electoral division(s): **All**

Forward Plan ref: **Not applicable** *Key decision:* **No**

Purpose: **For the Children and Young People 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, which is also being presented to the Adults Committee, following discussion with the Chairman of the Adults Committee and the Chairwoman of the Children and Young People 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 Children and Young People's and Adults Committees. CYP Spokes have also recently provided comments which will be reflected into the final strategy.
- 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 on 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 Children and Families Act (2014) and The Care Act (2014) and 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 Think Family and Transforming Lives.
- 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 and professionals working with adults will have a key role to play in identifying Young Carers.
- 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 and developing 'buddying' schemes.

- 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 County has let a new contract for the provision of support to Young Carers to the voluntary organisation Centre 33. This has a value of £235k per year. The support offer will lead to Centre 33 supporting young carers through school based activities in all secondary schools and to ensure that the educational experience and outcomes for young carers can be raised. There will be additional support offered outside of school and through moderated on-line activity for older Young Carers. Centre 33 put forward a comprehensive tender submission and we are confident in their ability to deliver high quality services.
- 2.4 Young Carers are now eligible for a statutory assessment of their needs. In order to fulfil this requirement, two Young Carer Worker posts are being recruited to in order to undertake these assessments. The impact for those Young Carers with the highest support needs will be a better recognition of the circumstances where 'inappropriate caring' will require support agencies such as adult services to consider how to respond to the needs of the person who is being cared for in a different way. In some cases a Lead Professional will be appointed, often the new Young Carer Worker themselves, to develop and coordinate a multi-agency plan to relieve the Young Carer of some of these burdens. This may lead to complicated service negotiations. However it is anticipated that there will be a significantly increased offer to Young Carers and a more coordinated approach being taken to address their issues as we seek to meet the new statutory obligations.
- 2.5 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
- 2.6 Members are requested to note that the strategy will also be presented to the Adults Committee on 12 January 2016 for approval.
- 2.7 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.

3.1.2 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.

| Source Documents | Location |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| None | |

APPENDICES

Appendix A

Draft All Age Carers Strategy 2016-2020