

Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission Report

Carer Strategy Update

Date: 10th September 2019
Lead Member: Cllr Sarah Russell
Lead Strategic Director: Steven Forbes

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
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- Report version number: 1

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To provide the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission with an update on development and implementation of the Joint Social Care and Health Recognising, Valuing and Supporting Carers in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Carer Strategy - 2018 to 2021.
- 1.2. The strategy is detailed at Appendix 1.

2. Summary

- 2.1. The strategy has been developed in conjunction with the three local Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) and the three Local Authorities (Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR)). The strategy development was led by Leicestershire County council and overseen by the LLR Carers Delivery Group and signed off by the City Mayor and Executive in October 2018.
- 2.2. Although not a statutory requirement, the Department of Health expects local authorities and health organisations to have a local carers strategy in place which reflects the national vision and guidance for supporting carers to undertake their caring role whilst having a life of their own.
- 2.3. The Department of Health and Social Care also released the Carers Action Plan in 2018 which outlines the programme of work to support carers in England and builds on the National Carers Strategy, which retains the strategic vision for recognising, valuing and supporting carers from 2008. The LLR Carers Strategy is closely aligned to this action plan.
- 2.4. The Strategy reflects the national agenda/guidance and is based around 8 guiding principles. These have been transferred into our City Implementation Plan, with actions against them for a range of partners and delivery will be monitored by the LLR Carer Delivery Group, with regular reports being submitted to the City Mayor, Executive and the ASC Scrutiny Commission.
- 2.5. The report outlines the progress made by the City Council and plans to further develop its implementation plan.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. The ASC Scrutiny Commission is recommended to note the report and provide comments / feedback.

4. Report

Overview of Vision and Guiding Principles

- 4.1. The strategy defines a shared vision and guiding principles for recognising, valuing and supporting carers.
- 4.2. The vision is that family members and unpaid carers, including young people across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland will be identified early, feel valued and respected. They will receive appropriate support wherever possible to enable them to undertake their caring role, whilst maintaining their own health and wellbeing.
- 4.3. The strategy began in 2018 and runs for three years.
- 4.4. The strategy is attached at Appendix 1.

Guiding Principles

- 4.5. There are eight guiding principles each with high level actions. Members of the Carers Delivery Group report their progress against those principles. The guiding principles are:
 - Carer Identification
 - Carers are valued and involved
 - Carers are informed
 - Carer Friendly Communities
 - Carers have a life alongside caring
 - Carers and the impact of Technology Products and the living space
 - Carers can access the right support at the right time
 - Supporting Young Carers

4.6 Engagement on the Strategy

The strategy was drafted following ongoing engagement with carers and stakeholders. Consultation took place between 28th February 2018 and 18th April 2018 and 230 responses were received, 62 of which came from the City. 29 of these City respondents were Young Carers. 56% of city respondents (including the Young Carers) did not feel that the Carers strategy reflected carer issues. This compared to 39% of all consultation respondents in Leicestershire and Rutland. Key themes from the comments were:

- More information is needed about what the strategy will deliver

- The strategy should reflect needs more
- Carers want more help and support
- Confusion about the word 'carer'
- Young carers needs are not reflected

This feedback shaped the final draft.

Governance

4.7. The Joint Carers Strategy is owned by the LLR Carers Delivery Group (CDG) which sits under the Prevention (Home First) work stream of the Sustainable Transformation Plan (STP) arrangements. Partners in the strategy include:

Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council, Rutland County Council, the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, Healthwatch, Leicestershire Partnership Trust (LPT), University Hospitals of Leicester (UHL) and a number of voluntary sector carer support services.

4.8. Work is in progress to develop a strategic Carers Partnership Board which will have oversight of the delivery of the strategy amongst other things. This will be supported by a broader stakeholder group of carers and other stakeholders whose role will be to highlight issues of concern to carers, offer opinions on carers services and be a forum for engagement about strategic developments for the Council and NHS partners. Plans are in progress for a first meeting of the forum in November 2019 to coincide with Carers Rights Day.

Implementation Plan

4.9. The City specific implementation plan is being drafted with the Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and it is anticipated that this will be completed by December 2019, following stakeholder engagement as described in paragraph 4.6. The City Council will provide a corporate response by ensuring that key departments are represented.

4.10. The implementation plan will be signed off through Leicester City Council and the Leicester City CCG governance processes.

High Level Actions

LLR Carers Strategy Guiding Principle:	Actions:
Carers are identified early and recognised	- All partners will seek to support carers to identify themselves as appropriate, ensuring staff are

	<p>trained to suitably recognise the different types of carers particularly new carers, parent carers and young carers who can often go unidentified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LLR CCG's will include information on carers and increase carer awareness in practice staff inductions. They will aim to increase the number of carers identified on GP practice registers - Individual partners will work to make their carer registers robust
Carers are valued and involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health and social care professionals will seek the input of informal carers at appropriate key points on the health and social care pathway in order to secure the best possible outcomes for the cared for. This joined up approach is particularly focussed on avoiding inappropriate hospital admissions and enabling timely discharge - Commissioners will ensure that carers' views are sought and reflected in commissioning exercises - Good practice in carer training will continue to be shared across partners
Carers are informed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partners will review their information offer for carers to improve its accessibility. Specifically, around finance, benefits and where to access advice on these subjects. - All partners will seek opportunities to raise awareness of local carers services
Carer friendly communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commissioners will take the views of carers into account in future commissioning exercises. This will include consideration of geographic and demographic profiles. - Encourage communities to support carers through awareness raising within existing community groups
Carers have a life alongside caring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As employers themselves, partners will review their carer friendly policies and aim to set a good example to others - The assessment process will consider the use of flexible and

	<p>responsive respite provision to enable carers to have a break, including short breaks to families with a child with special educational need and disabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CCG's will continue to encourage carers to take up screening invitations, NHS health checks and flu vaccinations where relevant
Carers and the impact of Technology products and the living space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The partnership will seek to involve professionals from housing, equipment and adaptations in work to improve carers' pathway. This should include raising awareness of the issues facing carers with those organisations
Carers can access the right support at the right time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessments will take a strength based approach - Each partner will look at its carer pathway to reduce the potential for a disjointed approach - Opportunities for closer working between agencies will be considered at appropriate points in service reviews - People will be signposted to sources of support post-caring - Recognise and address the difficulties for parent carers during transition periods
Supporting Young Carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adult and children's health and social care teams will work to identify and be aware of young carers - All partners will take the needs of young carers into account in planning and assessment processes particularly in relation to how the care needs of adults impact on them - Health and social care processes will take a whole family approach to include referrals being made to early help or specialist commissioned services for a statutory assessment of their needs or provide signposting information - Recognise and address the difficulties around accessing education, employment and training for young carers during transition periods

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educational establishments will acknowledge they may be the first point of contact for young carers and their parents and can respond appropriately - Using a whole family approach, develop and promote transition assessments for young adult carers approaching 18 that identify and support the young carers wish to engage with education, employment and training
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5. Financial, legal and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

5.1.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Rohit Rughani, Principal Accountant, Ext 37 4003

5.2 Legal implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from the contents of this report.
 Pretty Patel, Head of Law- Social Care & Safeguarding. Tel. 0116 454 1457

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

There are no climate change implications arising from this report.

Duncan Bell, Corporate Environmental Consultant. Ext. 37 2249

5.4 Equalities Implications

Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities have a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which means that, in carrying out their functions, they have a statutory duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act, to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't. Due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty should be paid before and at the time a decision is taken, in such a way that it can influence the final decision.

Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Although caring responsibilities are not a protected characteristic, the Equality Act 2010 can protect carers from being treated unfairly because of their association with the person they care for (who would likely be protected under Equalities legislation in relation to their age or their disability). This is called “discrimination by association”.

The report provides an update development and implementation of the Joint Social Care and Health Recognising, Valuing and Supporting Carers in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Carer Strategy - 2018 to 2021. Partners involved in the development of the joint strategy are also subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty.

The report draws out some key high-level considerations around the protected characteristics of carers themselves, for example the specific issues faced by young carers (age) and the intersectionalities between caring responsibilities and other characteristics (such as race, gender, religion or belief etc), which could impact on how the Council can support carer friendly communities. For this reason, there is a commitment to understanding and considering the demographic and geographical profile of carers.

Previously, an Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken by Leicestershire County Council as the lead organisation on the joint strategy and an exercise undertaken by the City Council to consider any potential impacts on carers in the City, particularly given the difference in demographics. However, it was agreed at the time that a more specific City assessment would also be undertaken to influence and inform the development of the implementation plan in order to ensure that the City Council continue to pay appropriate consideration to meeting the aims of the Public sector Equality Duty, which is an on-going duty.

Equality impact assessment should, therefore, be undertaken on any element of the underpinning delivery/ implementation plan which will affect service users (carers) and those that they care for. An understanding of the potential impacts, the maximisation of positive impacts and the identification of appropriate mitigations where there is a disproportionate negative impact can be achieved through the ongoing engagement with the user group and stakeholders and analysis of monitoring data. In addition, as changes are implemented, it will be important to monitor for any unexpected disproportionate negative impacts or where we are unsure of the impact, in order that they can be addressed swiftly and effectively. This will be beneficial in ensuring that there are no barriers to accessing support arising from any particular protected characteristic/s.

Hannah Watkins, Equalities Manager ext. 37 5811

6. Background information and other papers:

7. Summary of appendices: LLR Joint Carers Strategy 2018 - 2021