



Leicester  
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED**  
All

## **FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:**

Health Scrutiny	1 April 2009
OSMB	16 <sup>th</sup> April 2009
Cabinet	20 <sup>th</sup> April 2009

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## **Leicester Carers Strategy 2009 - 2013**

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### **Report of the Corporate Director, Adults and Housing**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 This report presents a revised draft of the Leicester Carers Strategy following the consultation period, for approval and adoption by Leicester City Council.

#### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 A draft Leicester Carers Strategy was produced in September 2008. That draft was based on a first phase of engagement, and a further consultation period covered October to December 2008, with an extension into 2009 for a consultation card exercise.
- 2.2 As a partnership strategy, agreement to publish the draft was gained from the responsible Directorate (Adults and Housing), the Cabinet Lead for Adults / Older People, the lead director within NHS Leicester City and the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board.
- 2.3 Feedback from the consultation exercise resulted in a final draft being produced.
- 2.4 In February 2009, managers from Adults and Housing and NHS Leicester took part in an action planning workshop that produced the actions list specified in pages 16 to 26 of the final draft. The Carers Strategy Project Board members will now assist in producing a detailed action plan, so that lead responsibilities, milestones and targets are fully specified.
- 2.5 The Leicester Carers Strategy supports the One Leicester objective of improving support, advice and information to the city's carers, and links to the agenda for the transformation of adult social care. Performance on carers issues is a Local Area Agreement target (NI135).

- 2.6 A requirement to produce a Joint Break Plan for Carers from April 2009 across the Local Authority and NHS is being taken forward as a separate but complementary piece of work.
- 2.7 Public and staff launch events for the strategy will be scheduled for later this year.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CABINET**

- 3.1 It is recommended that Leicester Carers Strategy be ratified by Cabinet.
- 3.2 Cabinet are asked to note that the action themes in the strategy continue to be worked on to add detail, to produce a fully-specified action plan for officers, taking account of the latest inspection themes. This will support the implementation of the strategy.

### **4. REPORT**

- 4.1 Carers is the term used to describe people who provide regular care and support to other individuals, on an unpaid basis. This is distinct to paid care workers. Nearly 10% of the population of Leicester is a carer. Carers are usually, but not always, a family member. Carers often support more than one individual, e.g. an adult child caring for two dependent parents. The contribution of carers to the city is considerable, from family, community and financial perspectives. Supporting carers in their role is vital to the health and wellbeing of many of our citizens.
- 4.2 Work on a new Leicester Carers Strategy began at the end of 2007 with the establishment of a Carers Strategy Project Board, chaired by Ruth Lake, Service Director (Older People). A Carers Reference Group was established, consisting of individual carers and representatives of carers' groups and relevant voluntary organisations.
- 4.3 The Carers Reference Group organised an extensive consultation process for the purpose of identifying priorities for the draft document, and this formed the basis for the draft strategy dated September 2008.
- 4.4 The second period of consultation that followed in October to December 2008 involved a number of methods: a web page and consultation Email address, meetings with carers groups and relevant organisations, and the distribution of a consultation card. The responses confirmed carers' interest in the themes of better information and time off from caring. This consultation phase also evidenced a somewhat greater level of concern about financial and employment issues.
- 4.5 The September 2008 draft had already taken into account the new national carers strategy (June 2008) and its twin themes of "a caring system on your side, a life of your own". The revised Leicester strategy demonstrates the links between these themes and the actions proposed in pages 16-26 of the document.
- 4.6 The action planning workshop held on 11<sup>th</sup> February with managers from Adults and Housing and Chief Executives Departments and NHS Leicester City emphasised the context of the national themes, the One Leicester objectives (including the Local Area Agreement target relating to carers' assessments) and the Putting People First agenda.

The attendance at this event also demonstrated that progress had been made in securing greater engagement from health colleagues. Chief Executive's was also represented as a means of starting to build a more corporate focus to the strategy.

- 4.7 A very recent development is the publication of the Commission for Social Care Inspection's Self Assessment Survey, which forms the major national inspection activity for social care. The Commission was already known to be concerned about the need to develop the 'carers and employment' agenda. The new survey also covers emergency respite care, training staff to work with carers as expert partners and embedding the concept of carers' rights in services. Furthermore, for the first time the survey requires submission of evidence about outcomes for service users and carers across the range of outcome-based inspection themes, indicating a need for robust recording of work with carers. The assessment of adult social care will be embedded in the Comprehensive Area Assessment in both the organisational assessment and area assessment.
- 4.8 It can be seen that the wider context consists of a number of strands, namely the national carers strategy, the personalisation changes, One Leicester, the inspection agenda and the need to develop the corporate and partnership dimensions of the strategy. These will inform the progressive adding of detail to the strategy action plan, building on the work at the 11<sup>th</sup> February event. The action plan will support the implementation of the strategy, but will sit as a separate document.

## **5. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1. Financial Implications**

- 5.1.1 The financial impact of the Carer's Strategy will need to be managed within allocated resources for 2009/10. Any significant impact in future years would need to be considered through the council's revenue strategy process. Nevertheless, carers are a mainstay of the country's social care system and from a financial perspective are hugely valuable.
- 5.1.2 The financial implications of actions proposed in the strategy's action themes will be evaluated as the finer detail of the strategy action plan is developed. It should be noted that some important agendas, such as the provision of information, should be capable of being addressed within existing budgets. The development of breaks for carers, which has more extensive budgetary implications, will be covered in the Joint Breaks Plan project. Funding has been allocated via local NHS organisations to support this.

**Rod Pearson, Head of Finance**

### **5.2 Legal Implications**

- 5.2.1 A carers strategy that addresses a wide range of carers' social inclusion needs contributes to the Department fulfilling its responsibilities under Section 2 of the Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004.

**Kamal Adatia, Legal Services**

**6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within the Report	References
Equal Opportunities	Y	Throughout	
Policy	Y	Throughout	
Sustainable and Environmental	N		
Crime and Disorder	N		
Human Rights Act	N		
Elderly/People on Low Income	Y	Throughout	

**8. BACKGROUND PAPERS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

- 8.1 One Leicester – Shaping Britain’s Sustainable City (the Community Strategy) 2008.
- 8.2 Adult Social Care Self Assessment Guidance 2008-2009. Commission for Social Care Inspection February 2009.
- 8.3 Putting People First – A Shared Vision and Commitment to the Transformation of Adult Social Care, HM Government December 2007.
- 8.4 Carers at the Heart of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Families and Communities: a caring system on your side, a life of your own – the national strategy for carers, HM Government June 2008
- 8.5 Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000 and Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004 Combined Policy Guidance, Department of Health 2005.

**9. CONSULTATIONS**

These have been extensive and are detailed in the report and the strategy document

**10. REPORT AUTHOR**

**Ruth Lake**  
**Service Director, Older People**

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<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes
<b>Reason</b>	Is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising more than one ward
<b>Appeared in Forward Plan</b>	Yes
<b>Executive or Council Decision</b>	Executive (Cabinet)