

Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission Report

Carer's Strategy – Consultation Update

Lead Director: Steven Forbes
Assistant Mayor: Cllr Vi Dempster
Date: 28th August 2018

Useful information

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

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide the Adult Social Care Commission with an update on the outcome of the recent consultation exercise for the Carer's Strategy.

2. Summary

- 2.1 The report provides a summary of the findings of a public consultation exercise undertaken between 28th February and 22nd April 2018, on the draft Joint Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Carers Strategy 2018-2021. See Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The strategy sets out a shared vision for supporting carers across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Council's and the three Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).
- 2.3 The following themes were identified through the consultation:
 - a) The strategy was welcomed and the majority of respondents felt it reflects carers' issues
 - b) There is a need to publish the actions plans once they are fully developed
 - c) There are concerns about the interface between health and social care, and questions around how the delivery plans will be monitored to track improvements in carer experience
 - d) Carer's recognition was highlighted as a positive theme
 - e) The lack of respite, including overnight breaks and sitting services
 - f) Young carers felt their needs were omitted from the strategy
 - g) Parent carers were underrepresented
 - h) The strategy needs to be summarised for the appropriate audience
- 2.4 The majority of the issues raised through the consultation will be addressed via the delivery plans that will underpin the strategy. The main concern, however, relates to the number of young carers (48, who had been supported to respond via Barnardo's) who felt that their needs were not reflected in the draft strategy.
- 2.5 Therefore, county colleagues who are leading the strategy development have been asked to delay the launch, which was planned for September/October 2018 to give time to allow for the young carers issues to be understood in more detail.

3. Recommendations

3.1 The members of the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission are asked to:

- a) note the report and
- b) to provide any comment on the overarching consultation findings

4. Report

4.1 The current local Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Carers Strategy was published in 2012 and a refreshed action plan was issued in 2015, pending the development of the new national strategy.

4.2 The development of a new national strategy was announced in 2015 and carers and organisations who work with carers, were asked to input into a 'call for evidence' which closed on 31st July 2016. No date has been set for the publication of the new strategy.

4.3 However, on 5th June 2018 the government published a Carers Action Plan 2018-2020, which draws on the responses from the call for evidence and sets out a cross-government programme of work to support carers for the next two years. These themes are in line with the priorities detailed in the draft LLR Carers Strategy.

4.4 Formal consultation on the draft LLR Carers Strategy 2018-2021 was undertaken between 28 February 2018 and 22 April 2018.

4.5 The consultation sought to test the following areas:

- How well, does the draft carers strategy accurately reflects carers issues
- To seek any omissions or gaps in the strategy
- To determine if the priorities detailed in the strategy the right ones

Summary of findings

4.6 The following information provides an overview of the findings of the consultation exercise.

- b) The strategy was welcomed and the majority of respondents felt it reflects carers' issues
- c) There is a need to publish the actions plans once they are fully developed
- d) There are concerns about the interface between health and social care, and questions around how the delivery plans will be monitored to track improvements in carer experience
- e) Carer's recognition was highlighted as a positive theme

- f) The lack of respite, including overnight breaks and sitting services
- g) Young carers felt their needs were omitted from the strategy
- h) The needs of Parent carers were not understood
- i) The strategy needs to be summarised for the appropriate audience

Summary of respondents

4.7 The following information provides an overview of the people who responded to the consultation.

- 62 people responded from the city representing 27% of all respondents across LLR
- 56% of city respondents (of which 51% were young carers) did not feel that the Carers strategy reflected carer issues. This compared to 39% of all consultation respondents
- Whilst 47% of City respondents agreed that the Strategy priorities were the right ones, 53% tended to disagree, weren't sure or left the question blank. This compares to 75% of respondents overall that either strongly agreed or tended to agree.
- Only 27% of City respondents agreed with the actions proposed to deliver on the priorities within the Strategy. 73% either disagreed, weren't sure or left the question blank compared to 73% of all respondents across LLR that either strongly agreed or tended to agree.
- Respondents liked that attempts were being made to implement a strategy, and some people felt that the priorities were along the right lines.
- Respondents thought the strategy vague and didn't like this and highlighted that it wasn't easy for carers to understand. A huge emphasis was placed on the lack of suitable detail in relation to the way that young carer and parent carer issues will be tackled.

Next Steps

4.8 Further work is required to understand the issues relating to young carers. Therefore, county colleagues who are leading the development of the strategy have been asked to defer launching the strategy until this matter has been considered further.

5. Scrutiny Oversight

5.1 The Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commissioning have received regular updates on the development of the Strategy.

6. Financial, legal and other implications

6.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Martin Judson, Head of Finance

6.2 Legal implications

At this stage, there are no specific legal implications on this consultation update, however at implementation stage legal advice will be required.

Jenis Taylor, Principal Solicitor (Commercial)

6.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

N/A

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, 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.

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

Partners involved in the development of the Joint Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Carers Strategy 2018-2021 are also subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty.

The report provides an update on the consultation results and identifies key areas for further work to understand the needs of carers, (particularly young carers and parent carers). As Leicestershire County Council are leading on the strategy, it is recommended that City Council officers engage with them further to ensure that the needs of Leicester citizens from across all protected characteristics are considered and to ensure that any potential equalities implications arising from the consultation results are both taken into account and further influence the development of the strategy and decision making, in order to ensure that we meet the Public Sector Equality Duty aims.

Hannah Watkins, Equalities Manager ext.37 5811

5.5 Other Implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

None

6. Background information and other papers:

Carers Strategy 2012

Refreshed Action Plan 2015

7. Summary of appendices:

Appendix 1 – Draft of LLR’s Joint Carers Strategy 2018 - 2021

8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicated the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)? No

9. Is this a “key decision”? No