

ADULT CARE AND WELL BEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 29 SEPTEMBER 2021

WORCESTERSHIRE'S ALL AGE CARERS STRATEGY

Summary

1. The Adult Care and Well Being Overview and Scrutiny Panel has been asked to consider the Worcestershire's All Age Carers Strategy, which is currently being updated and revised.
2. The Strategic Director of People and Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Adult Social Care and Health and Well Being have been invited to the meeting.

Background

3. The Carers Strategy, which attached at Appendix 1, is an all-age strategy which has been co-produced via engagement with carers, including parent carers, young carers and young adult carers, and a full range of other key stakeholders who refer, or have an interest, in unpaid carers to ascertain whether the vision and outcomes for carers are still relevant today, to find out what is working well, not so well, gaps and opportunities for development and improvement.
4. The rationale is to minimise the gap between Adult and Children's Services, to work in partnership to provide a more integrated offer to carers and because the vision and outcomes are the same for all carers albeit supported in very different ways with a different ethos. The all-age strategy is particularly important to parent carers whereby the cared-for person transitions from Children's to Adult Services.
5. The strategy details the present situation for unpaid carers within Worcestershire, outlines the future, and identifies how we can get there – together. It is also informed not only by key stakeholder groups but also by the legislation that protects and supports carers, good practice, research, and guidance.
6. The strategy reflects the time it was written. It is not intended to be a static document; it will change as new circumstances arise and we respond to them. The delivery of this Strategy will fall under the remit of Worcestershire's Health and Wellbeing Board. It will be implemented by working groups overseen by the Carers Partnership.
7. The carers service specification is currently being drafted with the ambition to go out to tender on 1 October 2021. Once issued, it is intended to include the assessment of carers of adults with mental health needs and learning disabilities with the Carers Hub including the assessment contract.
8. A project team was formed which comprised of a wide range of key stakeholders who completed and/or supported specific tasks within the project plan. This included:

- Reviewing findings of the carers needs assessment
- Researching good practice for Carers Support and recent reports evaluating the impact of COVID-19 on Carers e.g. NICE Guidelines, the work of other local authorities and carer support organisations such as Carers UK and Carers Trust etc
- Mapping and analysing the strengths, weaknesses, gaps, and opportunities of carers support as well as the political, economic, social, technological, environmental, and legal aspects
- Equality Impact Assessment
- Engagement with carer sand other key stakeholders including surveys and focus groups
- Mapping funding invested in carers
- Mapping support service provision both contracted and non-contracted
- Mapping governance arrangements.

9. Key partners on the Project Team are: Public Health, Children Services (including Children with Disabilities and Early Help), Worcestershire Association of Carers, Stroke Association, YSS, CCG, Young Adults Team, Learning Disability and Mental Management, Families in Partnership, Worcestershire Health and Care Trust, Worcester University and Healthwatch.

10. Other additional agencies specifically supported in specific carer engagement including Jigsaw, Autism Focus group and Age UK (Dementia Meeting Centre).

11. The annual action plan will become the key document as completing actions will be what makes a difference to carers lives and will make a difference to how we interact with carers in our daily lives at home, in education and at work.

12. The inclusion of carers of people who have had a stroke within the strategy and contract may impact on the Stroke Association who currently deliver this element of the service. Previously proposed changes to the Stroke Association contract resulted in well-co-ordinated campaigns to retain the service.

13. There are 5 key pieces of legislation that have a focus on Carers and their wellbeing. This means there is a legal responsibility to support and includes Carers of all ages. These include:

- a) Care Act (2014)
- b) NHS long term plan (2019)
- c) Health and Social Care Act (2012)
- d) Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (2007)
- e) Children Act (2004)
- f) Children and Families Act (2014)

14. All these Acts affect the commissioning of information, advice, and support for Carers. There are also other related pieces of legislation such as the Employment Act, Equalities Act, Mental Capacity Act, and the Mental Health Act. Web links to each of the key references used are in the strategy.

15. The agreed funds for the various elements of the services for carers are as follows:

- £617,000 pa (Public Health funding) for the adult carer's hub

- £40,000 pa (Adult Services funding) for the assessment of carers (including LD and MH carers)
- £90,000 pa for carers of stroke survivors
- £122,000 pa for young carers and young adult carers hub

16. Other related funding such as replacement care and carer DP funding to be considered in the holistic picture of funding for carers. This equates to a spend of £2.5m for adult carers (including parent carers) and £3.2m for young carers, young adult carers and parent carers/families.

17. There may be potential TUPE implications for the Learning Disability and Mental Health Teams when these assessment and reviews become part of the wider Adult Carers Hub. Professional advice from HR will be taken.

18. Assurance is given that the new Adult Carers Hub and assessment and reviews which form part of the service specification will ensure equality, diversity, and inclusion with fair access to services through appropriate marketing and information in appropriate formats etc. as part of the monitoring of contracts awarded.

Purpose of the Meeting

19. Members are invited to consider and comment on the information within this report and agree:

- whether any further information or scrutiny work is required at this time
- whether there are any comments to highlight to Cabinet Member.

Supporting Information

- Appendix 1 – All Age Carers Strategy 2021 - 2026

Contact Points

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Agenda and Minutes from the Overview and Adult Care and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny on 25 September 2019

Minutes and Agendas are available on the Council's website: [weblink to agendas and minutes](#)