

CARERS' STRATEGY 2015-2017

Summary

1. The Adult Care and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Panel has the opportunity to comment on the Worcestershire Carers' Strategy 2015-2017, as part of the consultation on the draft document.
2. Contribution is also sought from councillors involved in scrutiny of services for Children and Young People, since the Strategy addresses both children and adults.
3. Representatives from Worcestershire Association of Carers and from Worcestershire Healthwatch have been invited, to provide feedback from the carer community.
4. The Head of Integrated Commissioning and the Cabinet Members with responsibility for Adult Social Care and also for Health and Well-being, have been invited to the meeting.

Background

5. The Carers Strategy 2010-2014 'Carers at the Heart of Worcestershire's Families and Communities' is being refreshed. The new draft Strategy has been open to consultation from 26 January until March and is due to be signed off by Worcestershire's Health and Well-being Board on 12 May.
6. The Strategy sets out the Council's vision for carers in Worcestershire, its commitment, what it wants to achieve and how.
7. Clause 10 (3) of the Care Act defines a carer as 'an adult who provides or intends to provide care for another adult ("adult needing care")'.
8. Another definition is included in the Department of Health's policy paper "*Recognised, Valued and Supported: Next Steps for the Carers' Strategy, 2010*", which defines a carer as "someone of any age who provides unpaid support to family or friends who could not manage without this help. This could be caring for a relative, partner, a child or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or substance misuse problems".
9. The context for the refreshed Strategy is set out in its introductory paragraphs, referring to:
 - Huge changes for people who need social care, their carers and service providers – arising from the Care Act 2014, which comes into force in April 2015
 - Central Government's commitment to further integration of health and social care

Purpose of this Meeting

- Clarification around the law relating to young carers – as a result of the Children and Families Act 2014 (section 17 of the 1989 Children Act) that coincides also with the Care Act
- Less money available to spend on people who need support, because of continuing and significant pressures on public sector funding.

10. The draft Strategy and consultation questionnaire have been circulated to all county councillors and are attached to this report.

11. The Council's website contains information for Worcestershire's carers, including details of the draft Strategy at the following web-link: <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20075/carers>

Panel members will be aware that the Directorate of Adult Services and Health is due to launch new information web pages 'Your life, your choice' from April, which will provide further information on social care and health services.

12. The Panel has the opportunity to put forward comments on the draft Strategy. In doing so, panel members may reflect on the following points:

- Who has been consulted and how?
- What have been the main messages and how will they be addressed?
- What do members think of the vision and suggested local outcomes?
- Whether there will be resources to support the Strategy's implementation?

Next Steps

13. Arising from the discussion, members are asked to determine:

- any further information needs or potential areas for scrutiny
- any comments to forward to the Cabinet Member.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Draft Worcestershire Carers' Strategy 2015-17
Appendix 2 – Worcestershire Carers' Strategy Consultation

Contact Points

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Specific Contact Points for this Report:

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following background papers relate to the subject matter of this report: