

**HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BOARD
10 MAY 2016****CARERS STRATEGY FOR WORCESTERSHIRE - UPDATE**

Board Sponsor

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Author

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(Please click below
then on down arrow)

Priorities

Older people & long term conditions	Yes
Mental health & well-being	Yes
Obesity	No
Alcohol	No
Other (specify below)	

Groups of particular interest

Children & young people	Yes
Communities & groups with poor health outcomes	No
People with learning disabilities	Yes

Safeguarding

Impact on Safeguarding Children
If yes please give details

No

Impact on Safeguarding Adults
If yes please give details

No

Item for Decision, Consideration or Information

Consideration

Recommendation

- 1. The Health and Well-being Board is asked to note progress made on the Strategy.**

Background

- The Carers at the Heart of Worcestershire's Families and Communities Strategy was approved by the Health and Well-Being Board on 12 May 2015.
- The original Strategy was launched in 2009, and ran until 2014. The updated Strategy approved by the Health & Wellbeing Board in 2015 was co-produced by the Council and relevant partners and carers, and reflects the introduction of the Care Act 2014 and other changes to health and social care services.

4. Due to the changes in health and social care services, the role that unpaid carers play is vital. It is estimated that the value of care provided by informal carers is £132 billion nationally, the equivalent of funding for the whole NHS. In the current economic climate, this support is more vital than ever and it is therefore essential that carers continue to have access to appropriate information, advice and support.

5. The vision of the Strategy is to ensure that adults, parents and young carers will be recognised and valued by the wider community and statutory agencies in Worcestershire for the support and care they provide to vulnerable adults, children and young people. They will receive appropriate support where necessary to help them provide care safely and maintain a balance so that they are able to continue to care for family members and friends (should they choose to do so) whilst being able to lead a life outside of caring.

3. There are currently approximately 63,500 carers in Worcestershire. The number of carers currently in receipt of support from the Worcestershire Association of carers is almost 11,500. This figure has risen from 9,000 in March 2015.

4. The number of carers who were assessed or reviewed in 2015-16 was 6,014 (a combined result of both joint and separate assessments). This demonstrates a rise of 11.7% on the 2014-15 figure of 5,384 carers assessed or reviewed (joint and separate assessments).

5. As part of the development of arrangements to oversee progress in strategy:

- the Carers Consultative Group has been reconvened as the Carers Partnership, chaired by a carer, and held its first meeting in September 2015.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (No Wrong Doors), between the Council's Directorates of Adult Services & Health and Children Families and Communities has been developed and agreed to ensure strategic and operational joint working so that young people with caring responsibilities and those looked after by parent carers are able to make a successful transition into adulthood with the information, advice and support that is appropriate to their needs. Alongside this, referral and response pathways are being updated to ensure that young and adult carers are effectively identified and able to receive the support they need.

6. Progress made on delivering the Strategy is set out in Appendix 2. These have been discussed and agreed by the Carers' Partnership. The main achievements are:

- a) Carers were actively engaged in the development of the tender for the Integrated Carers Hub (detailed below), and the commissioned provider will be expected to deliver the service based on co-production principles. There is a commitment from the Carers Partnership and Commissioners to continue to work in this way whenever possible.
- b) The tender for the Integrated Carers Hub has been completed and the contract has been awarded to the Carers Action Worcestershire Consortium, led by Worcestershire Association of Carers. The new contract will commence on 1 July 2016 for a period of 2 years with a potential to extend

by up to a further 2 years. The outcomes in the new contract reflect the outcomes identified in the Carers Strategy.

- c) Young Carers were consulted with regard to the specification for commissioned support service for young carers via the Young Carers Focus Group. This group also organised, hosted and presented a successful stakeholder conference which was opened by the Chief Executive of the County Council and included HRH Princess Anne as a keynote speaker.
- d) YSS Ltd has been appointed as the Council's commissioned provider of support for young and young adult carers for the next 3 years. The service is designed to complement other services provided to families by statutory and voluntary agencies, and to offer a point of referral for those identifying young carers in need of support but not requiring, or 'stepping down' from an intervention by statutory social care. The new service includes the intention to develop more locally based provision for young carers. Development will begin in Bromsgrove and Redditch and options in other districts will also be explored.
- e) Work has started on reviewing services for children with disabilities and as part of this we intend on working with children and parents to develop and implement creative solutions that promote independence and wellbeing. Ultimately we want more children with disabilities to be able to live at home so they lead successful and, wherever possible, independent lives - and to use community based resources to support children and their carers. We recognise that current provision, such as short breaks, may play a part in this but they are not the only solution and we need to look at all the options and we still have more to do.
- f) We are continuing to work to broaden the range of services available to carers via the Your Life Your Choice site. There are currently 26 services from 5 providers which are specifically services for carers, e.g. information and advice, helplines and groups etc. In addition, there are over 800 other services or products from almost 200 providers which, although not carer-specific, carers may wish to take advantage of. We are also intending on extending the use of Your Life Your Choice to include services for children and families which will include information about the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Local Offer.
- g) Adult Social Care is currently being reconfigured. This will result in changes for carers as to how replacement care is agreed so that it is more efficient and decisions more timely. In future, work with carers will be embedded as a core function within all operational social work teams so that social workers are more 'carer-aware', with one of the new Locality Managers being identified as the Operational Lead for Carers. Training has been provided for all social work staff on the new combined assessment, which came into effect on 11 April 2016. The new assessment has a focus on carers.
- h) The Worcestershire Health & Care Trust has been helping advance the Worcestershire Carers Strategy through a number of initiatives including: developing ward/area based Carer Champions, delivering Carer Awareness Training to support this and developing support for patients with dementia

and their carers through the Side by Side Project with the Alzheimer's Society.

- i) These projects have been part of the Trust's 'Small Things Matter'. Carer Champion training was delivered during March 2016 and will form part of a regular programme going forward. The Trust is also working with Worcestershire Association of Carers on activities to support National Carers Week in June 2016.

Legal, Financial and HR Implications

7. All actions are within existing budgets. All legal implications are based on the Care Act 2014. There are no additional HR implications.

Privacy Impact Assessment

8. Not applicable.

Equality and Diversity Implications

9. None is appropriate as this is an update.

Contact Points

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Supporting Information

- Appendix 1 – Carers Strategy (available on-line)
- Appendix 2 – Carers Outcomes - Update

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Adult Services and Health) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report: