

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Wokingham Borough Council Carers' Strategy 2020-2025</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	The Executive on Thursday, 29 October 2020
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific;
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	Director, Adult Social Care and Health - Matt Pope, Director, Children's Services – Carol Cammiss
<b>LEAD MEMBER</b>	Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Services - Charles Margetts Executive Member for Children's Services – UllaKarin Clark

## **PURPOSE OF REPORT (INC STRATEGIC OUTCOMES)**

Following extensive consultation and engagement with carers, young carers, providers and internal stakeholders we seek approval for the Council to adopt the new Carers Strategy. The Council had a Carers' Strategy in place which ended in 2019.

This strategy articulates the strategic priorities of the Council to carers, residents, care partners and providers. It details how we will deliver improved outcomes for our residents over the next five years.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Executive approve Wokingham Borough Council's Carers' Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Our ambition is for Wokingham Borough to be one of the best boroughs for adults, carers and young carers in need of support to live, where they feel safe, included and a key part of our community. The Carers Strategy 2020-2025 sets out our approach to successfully achieving this whilst making sure people realise the desired outcomes that are important and personal to them.

14,000 people in Wokingham Borough identified themselves as a carer in the 2011 census providing unpaid care to a partner, family member or friend/neighbour (and this is expected to be higher given that many people do not relate to being carers). This is an increase on the 2001 census figures of 8.2% and shows that unpaid care has increased at a faster pace than population growth over the last decade.

The care that people provide within our communities is a valuable asset; according to the Social Market Foundation on average family carers provide 19.5 hours per week of care and there is an estimated 149 million hours of care a week being provided by family carers in the United Kingdom. If these carers were no longer able to provide care, society would need to hire an extra 4 million full time care-givers. According to a recent

report by the Department of Health and ADDAS there is a net saving of almost £4.00 to Local Authority social care budgets for every £1.00 that is spent on carers support <sup>1</sup>.

The Carers' strategy sets out our vision and strategic priorities to support carers and identifies the actions we and our partner organisations will take to achieve these in the context of challenging budgetary and demographic pressures. This strategy is aligned to the Adult Social Care strategy which focusses heavily on how the Council and its partners will prevent, reduce and delay the need for formal care and support and where possible to improve people's health and wellbeing, focusing on prevention and self-help.

The Council values the contribution that carers make to their local communities and is committed to supporting those who are unable to be self-sufficient in this essential role.

The Carers strategy highlights gaps that have been identified in our current carers' services, highlights areas where we want to develop and establishes the focus of our work over the next five years. It reflects some of the key themes inherent in the Carers Action Plan 2018-2020: Supporting carers today (Department of Health & Social Care, June 2018). Identifying and engaging with carers will be a key priority for the Council and its partners, given that we have 14,000 carers in the borough. In addition it is crucial that we develop a local offer that ensures carers are better informed about the services and support available to them with clear pathways and a whole family approach to assessments.

The strategy is for a period of five years, 2020 – 2025. Once agreed by Executive we will work with our partners to deliver the priorities set out. Over the next five years (2020-2025), our priorities will be:

- Identifying and recognising carers
- Supporting young carers
- Working carers
- Enabling carers to have a life outside of caring

---

1

[https://www.local.gov.uk/search?cx=000243444332556997522%3Aejuacxcsewy&cof=FORID%3A11&ie=ISO-8859-1&query=economic+case+for+local+investment+in+carer+support&op=Search&form\\_build\\_id=form-MRgDWnjku\\_y1GeH8lcEHinlkjoMrUbHPHTZ7iRxWKc&form\\_id=search\\_form\\_input](https://www.local.gov.uk/search?cx=000243444332556997522%3Aejuacxcsewy&cof=FORID%3A11&ie=ISO-8859-1&query=economic+case+for+local+investment+in+carer+support&op=Search&form_build_id=form-MRgDWnjku_y1GeH8lcEHinlkjoMrUbHPHTZ7iRxWKc&form_id=search_form_input)

## **BACKGROUND**

The Carers Strategy ensures that as a local authority we are able to meet our statutory responsibilities to carers and young carers as determined by the Care Act 2014 and Children and Families Act 2014.

Adult carers will have:

- Support to look after their own health and well-being.
- Receive services which will support them in their caring role to prevent, reduce or delay the need for other care and support for the person they care for
- Have a range of support and resources to enable them to have a life outside of caring
- Get the information and advice that they need relating to care. This includes breaks from caring and should be tailored to an individual following assessment
- Carers have a right to an assessment, and where eligible, support to meet their needs

Under the Care Act 2014 and Children and Families Act 2014, local authorities must provide young carers with:

- An assessment whether they are currently caring or intend to care. Assessments must consider the impact of caring in relation to their education, employment, well-being, and personal development, physical, mental and emotional health. Their views must be taken into account about what they want to happen
- A transition assessment before their 18th birthday

The Government's National Carers Action Plan 2018-2020 builds on the National Carers Strategy 2008 which has been adopted by successive governments. This provides a framework to how local authorities may implement the act:

- Creating services and systems that work for carers
- Employment and financial well-being
- Supporting young carers
- Recognising and supporting carers in the wider community and society
- Building research and evidence to improve outcomes for carers

The Carers Strategy will support the Council in discharging its statutory duties under the Care Act 2014 and Children and Families Act 2014.

The Council currently spends £402,000. per annum on carers support services which are commissioned from the voluntary sector. A further £690,000. is also spent on residential respite. These sums come from the council's total budget for Adult Social Care of £49.6 million per annum. Carers' services offer good value for money in preventing and delaying people from needing statutory services. Currently just 2% of our Adult Social Care budget is spent on supporting carers.

Locally 14,000 people in Wokingham Borough identified themselves as a carer in the 2011 census (and this is expected to be higher given that many people do not relate to being carers). Of these 230 were aged 16 or under and 489 were aged 16-24. There are 2,300 people in Wokingham Borough who provide 50 hours or more unpaid care per week. 3,000 carers are over the age of 65, this is predicted to rise by 35% by 2030 and the number of carers over 80 will rise by 70%.

The Carers' Strategy will be critical in helping the Council plan for this demand over the next 5 years, particularly in terms of preventing, reducing and delaying the need for formal care and support. It will drive the development of commissioning and spending plans that ensure:

- Value for money
- Spending is managed within the Council's resource limits
- Effective and efficient markets are developed and managed for support and care and the Voluntary and Community Sector
- Improved and better outcomes are delivered for people needing support and their carers.

## **BUSINESS CASE**

The Carers Strategy will allow the Council to understand and plan for the changing demographic profile and the demand for services in the context of a challenging financial position and a growing and aging population. Where appropriate, the Council will prevent, reduce and delay the need for people to access formal care and support.

The strategy sets out the Council's future ambitions and desired outcomes it wants to achieve for carers, through a clearly articulated ambition with a focus on promoting independence and a strength based approach.

By 2025 Wokingham Borough will be the best borough for adults, carers and young carers in need of support to live, where they feel safe, are valued and included as a key part of our community. The outcomes we want to achieve are:

- Increased identification of carers
- Carers supported to access community assets
- Improved and accessible information and advice
- Reduced loneliness and isolation
- Improved physical, and mental well being
- Improved life chances for young carers
- Better support for working carers
- Carers enabled to take a break

Investing in carers services has been a proven way of preventing or delaying the need for statutory services. The Council wants to support carers to continue in their much valued role, so they can live happier and more independently for longer.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION**

***The Council faces severe funding pressures, particularly in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.***

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£402,000.	Yes	Revenue
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£402,000.	Yes	Revenue

Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£402,000.	Yes	Revenue
-----------------------------------	-----------	-----	---------

<b>Other Financial Information</b>
None

<b>Stakeholder Considerations and Consultation</b>
Consultation has already taken place, please see above

<b>Public Sector Equality Duty</b>
Please find Equalities Impact Assessment attached

<b>Climate Emergency – <i>This Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough by 2030</i></b>
During the life time of the strategy, some services will be recommissioned due to procurement regulations and to ensure they are in line with our strategic priorities, offer high quality to residents and provide value for money. As such a time we will ensure that any environmental considerations are taken into account.

<b>List of Background Papers</b>
WBC Carers Strategy 2020-2025 EQIA Population profile

<b>Contact</b> Lesley Buckland	<b>Service</b> People Commissioning
<b>Telephone</b> 07809103112	<b>Email</b> lesley.buckland2@wokingham.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank