

Summary Sheet

Meeting:

Health and Wellbeing Board – 11th January 2017

Title: Caring Together, The Rotherham Carers Strategy

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

Yes

Director Approving Submission of the Report

Anne Marie Lubanski – Strategic Director of Adult Care and Housing

Report author(s):

Sarah Farragher, Head of Service – Independence and Support Planning

Ward(s) Affected

All

Executive Summary

Caring Together, the Rotherham's Carers' Strategy is a partnership strategy which sets out the intentions and actions necessary to support Carers and Young Carers in Rotherham.

Informal Carers are the backbone of the health and social care economy. The ambition is to build a stronger collaboration between Carers and other partners in Rotherham, and formally start to recognise the importance of whole family relationships. The strategy lays down the foundations for achieving these partnerships and sets the intention for future working arrangements. It aims to make a difference in the short term and start the journey towards stronger partnerships across formal services, people who use services and their Carers.

Caring Together has been co-produced between Adult Services, Children's Services, Customer Services, Rotherham Carers, including Young Carers, the Voluntary Sector, RDaSH and the Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group. Input from the Rotherham Foundation Trust will be incorporated prior to sign off by the Health and Well-being Board.

Recommendations

That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- Approves *Caring Together, the Rotherham Carers' Strategy 2016-2021*.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix One: Caring Together the Rotherham Carers' Strategy 2016-2021

Appendix Two: Equality Analysis

Background Papers

The Care Act 2014

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Drafts and updates on the development of this strategy have been considered by the Health Select Committee in December 2015, March 2016 and July 2016.

The strategy was considered at the Health and Wellbeing Board in November 2016.

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Title: Caring Together - The Rotherham Carers' Strategy

1. Recommendations

Health and Wellbeing Board note that:

- 1.1 Our recommendations are that the Commissioners endorse *Caring Together, the Rotherham Carers' Strategy 2016-2021* for partnership approval at the Health and Wellbeing Board.

2. Background

- 2.1. *Caring Together, the Rotherham's Carers' Strategy* is a partnership Strategy which sets out the intentions and actions necessary to support Carers and Young Carers in Rotherham.
- 2.2. Informal Carers are the backbone of the health and social care economy. The ambition is to build stronger collaboration between Carers and other partners in Rotherham, and formally start to recognise the importance of whole family relationships. The strategy lays down the foundations for achieving these partnerships and sets the intention for future working arrangements. It aims to make a difference in the short term and start the journey towards stronger partnerships across formal services for people who use services and their Carers
- 2.3. *Caring Together* has been co-produced between Adult Services, Children's Services, Customer Services, Rotherham Carers, including Young Carers, the Voluntary Sector, RDaSH and the Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group. Input from the Rotherham Foundation Trust will be incorporated over the next few weeks prior to sign off by the Health and Well-Being Board. There is a need for the Council to formally endorse this strategy and commitment to this work.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1. The Strategy defines a Carer as anyone who provides unpaid support to a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without their support.
- 3.2. Support to informal Carers has been a statutory requirement since the introduction of the Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995. The Care Act 2014 defines a Carer as a person providing "necessary care" for another adult, even if that adult does not meet the eligibility criteria. The caring role must be having an impact on the Carers wellbeing. Carers Assessments include eligibility criteria in relation to the Carers right to support.
- 3.3. Caring Together the Rotherham Carers' Strategy is not a stand-alone Council strategy. It is a partnership document recognising that Carers form an essential part of the overall health and social care offer within Rotherham and should have a voice in how they are supported. The strategy identifies five desired outcomes which have been developed with Carers:
- **Outcome One:** Carers in Rotherham are more able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions and feel empowered.
 - **Outcome Two:** The caring role is manageable and sustainable

- **Outcome Three:** Carers in Rotherham have their needs understood and their well-being promoted
- **Outcome Four:** Families with young Carers are consistently identified early in Rotherham to prevent problems from occurring and getting worse and that there is shared responsibility across partners for this early identification.
- **Outcome Five:** Our children are recognised and safeguarded in their challenging role and receive appropriate intervention and support at the right time.
- **Outcome Six:** Children and young people in Rotherham that have young carer roles have access to and experience the same outcomes as their peers.

3.4. These outcomes feed into a delivery plan which will be a live document supported by the Caring Together Delivery Group.

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

4.1. There is an option not to endorse the strategy however, this will undermine the partnership work that has taken place and progress that has been made towards working more collaboratively with Carers. This is therefore not recommended.

4.2. It is recommended that *Caring Together, the Rotherham Carers' Strategy* is endorsed.

5. Consultation

5.1. Consultation on the strategy has taken place throughout its development through the Carers' Forum, Young Carers' Networks as well as voluntary sector feedback through the two main Carers' support networks in Rotherham, Crossroads and Barnardos. Colleagues from Children's Services and Customer Services have been active members of the development group, as have colleagues from the CCG and RDaSH. Feedback from the Rotherham Foundation Trust will be fed into the final version prior to sign off at the Health and Wellbeing Board.

6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

6.1. Once endorsed this strategy will go back to the Health and Wellbeing Board for formal agreement.

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

7.1. Research undertaken by Carers UK in 2015 estimated that the financial value of informal care was £132 billion per annum to the national economy. It is therefore vital that carers are supported to maintain caring roles.

7.2. In Rotherham the estimated Council spend on carers services is £2million per annum. However it is difficult to place an exact figure on this as in reality most of these services which are currently part of the cared for persons personal budget. Examples of services include day care, home care, respite and direct payments. All of which are currently under review as part of the need to achieve budget savings and financial sustainability for the Council.

7.3. This overall investment does include a small proportion of services that are directly provided to the carer, made up of Council employed assessing staff, carers emergency scheme, Memory Cafes and the Carers Centre "Carers Corner". Some of this investment incorporated in the Better Care Fund and part of the action plan is to look at how this resource can be best utilised to promote carers wellbeing.

- 7.4. The significant amount of Carer specific services within the Borough are not directly funded through the Council and receive other sources of funding such as grants from the clinical commissioning group CCG, lottery funding and other voluntary sector investment. There are also some specialist elements of services such as the Hospice at home that has carers services.
- 7.5. As part of the implementation there is a greater focus on planning and working differently, to enable Carers to have a life outside of caring. This will mean that commissioning of Carers' services will need to be co-produced. An introduction of a more focused Carers' assessment and support planning offer will be developed. Any associated costs in relation to the implementation of this strategy are part of the statutory duty of the Council and will be managed through existing business processes and resources. However there is a need to be transparent around the financial envelope for this work and the needs to achieve best value in this area.
- 7.6. The Care Act introduced a power for local authorities to make a charge for carers services, however this was accompanied by strong guidance advising against implementing this. Currently services which are provided to the Cared for person, e.g. replacement care are subject to a financial assessment based on the circumstances of the person in receipt of this service. Services provided directly to carers to promote the carers well-being, e.g. direct payments are not chargeable. This is a policy area that may need to be reviewed in the future.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1. The Council has a legal duty under the Care Act 2014 to ensure Carers are assessed and supported. This strategy will contribute to the Council's compliance with the statutory duties towards carers.

9. Human Resources Implications

- 9.1. There are no Human Resource implications for the Council as a result of this strategy

10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 10.1. This strategy has been co-produced by both Adults and Children's services alongside other statutory and voluntary sector partners.

11. Equalities and Human Rights Implications

- 11.1. An Equality Analysis has been completed by the strategy development group and is included as appendix two.

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

- 12.1. The Carers' Strategy has an implication for all directorates as Rotherham moves towards being a Carer friendly community.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1. The Strategy sets the intention for partnership working and there are significant financial risks associated with not supporting Carers adequately in relation to the requirement for the Council to provide replacement care.
- 13.2. Given the current financial climate there is a risk that the strategy sets expectations for a level of service that is not sustainable financially for the Council and that in

reality is not achievable. This can be mitigated through transparency and open discussions through the strategy group and with Carers Forum.

- 13.3. The strategy aims to raise the awareness, profile and understanding of carers. There is a risk that this will increase requests for assessments and services at a time when the Council is significantly financially challenged. Part of the challenge for the partnership work moving forwards will be to look at creative ways of supporting carers within their communities and building on natural strengths rather than funnelling people into services.
- 13.4. There is a risk that the raising of carers rights and profiles will actually increase dissatisfaction and complaints, both while changes are embedded but also in relation to expectations against deliverability. To mitigate this a link to the Council's complaint policy will be included within the Carers strategy.
- 13.5. There has been a reduction in the number of Carers assessments being completed by the Council, which is the reverse position to other Yorkshire and Humber Authorities. The reasons for this are currently being analysed. This is accompanied by anecdotal reports of an increase in the numbers of Carers in crisis contacting Crossroad for support. There is a risk that without appropriate support the Council faces increasing pressures in relation to requests new and increased packages of care and it is therefore important that the relationships are in place to ensure Carers are supported appropriately.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Approvals Obtained from:

Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services:

Director of Legal Services:

Head of Procurement (if appropriate):

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