

BRIEFING	TO:	Health and Wellbeing Board
	DATE:	28 January 2026
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	TITLE:	The Borough That Cares All-Age Carers Strategy 2026-2031
1. Background		
1.1	In July 2022, the Rotherham Health and Wellbeing Board approved the Borough That Cares Strategic Framework 2022-2025. This framework created a foundation of support, established a carers network, and introduced a co-production platform to build a carer friendly borough.	
1.2	The co-production platform was utilised to develop a new strategy; carers and other key stakeholders were fully engaged to ensure the voice and experience of carers remains at the centre of service design and delivery across Rotherham.	
1.3	Cabinet approved the Borough That Cares All-Age Carers Strategy 2026–2031 on 15 December 2025. The strategy provides clarity on the future vision, priorities and commitments to unpaid carers. It also enables continued engagement and ensures a voice for the carers of the borough. To be launched in April 2026, it builds on the foundations achieved in the previous strategic framework and sets the strategic direction for the five-year period to 2031.	
1.4	The Rotherham Health and Wellbeing Board have requested a presentation to provide an overview of the strategy, its development and next steps.	
2. Key Issues		
2.1	During April to August 2025, a programme of engagement was undertaken with carers, social care, health, the voluntary and community sector (VCS) and service providers to gather feedback on the achievements between 2022-2025, and to co-produce the vision, priorities and commitments for the next five years to 2031.	
2.2	Twenty engagement sessions took place involving 399 participants. The feedback from these engagement sessions shaped the detail of the strategy for the next five years. Through listening to the voice of carers (including young carers), their views and experiences, and what matters most to them and their cared for loved ones, five key areas of focus were identified to form the commitments of the renewed strategy.	
2.3	This presentation provides an update on how the Borough That Cares All-Age Carers Strategy 2026 – 2031 was co-produced. It will summarise: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The achievements of The Borough That Cares Strategic Framework 2022-2025• The engagement activity in Spring/Summer 2025	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The commitments for the next five years • Next steps.
3. Key Actions and Relevant Timelines	
3.1	<p>Following approval of the strategy at Cabinet in December 2025, there are a number of next steps, as set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 2026 – Communication Plan developed • January to February 2026 – engagement with Carers and other stakeholders to develop the first-year delivery plan • March 2026 – Communication Plan implemented • April 2026 – Strategy launched and delivery plan commences.
4. Implications for Health Inequalities	
4.1	<p>Carers are not currently recognised as having a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 however the Council considers Carers to hold this protection when undertaking Equality Assessments.</p> <p>The commitments in the Strategy will address the health inequalities that impact carers in Rotherham.</p>
5. Recommendations	
5.1	<p>That the Health and Wellbeing Board receives the report and presentation as an update on the development of the Carers Strategy for 2026-2031 and agrees to receive annual reports on delivery of the strategy and associated delivery plan.</p>