

CARERS STRATEGY 2015-18

Cabinet Member	Councillor Philip Corthorne
Cabinet Portfolio	Social Services, Health and Housing
Officer Contacts	John Higgins, Adult Social Care Kevin Byrne, Administration
Papers with report	Item 1 - Carers Strategy 2015-18 Appendix A - Delivery Plan 2015-16 Appendix B - Consultation Report Appendix C - Carers Strategy Group Membership

1. HEADLINE INFORMATION

Summary	The report presents Cabinet with a refreshed Carers Strategy for the period 2015-18. Respective approval from the NHS will be sought by the Hillingdon CCG Governing Body in May 2015.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	Putting our Residents First: <i>Our People</i> The Carers Strategy supports priority three in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy of developing integrated, high quality social care and health services within the community or at home and is part of the implementation of the Care Act 2014.
Financial Cost	There are no direct financial costs associated with this Strategy. However, there will be more carers assessments being completed which will have financial implications.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Social Services, Housing and Public Health
Ward(s) affected	All

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet:

- 1) Approve the Carers Strategy 2015-18 and the activities included in the Delivery Plan 2015-16 and;
- 2) Note that a progress update on the Strategy Delivery Plan be presented to Cabinet in November 2015.

Reasons for recommendation

The Carers Strategy 2015-18 is an important element of implementing the requirements of the Care Act 2014 and demonstrates what the Council, Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group (HCCG) and its partners are doing to support carers in Hillingdon. It also supports the Health and Wellbeing Strategy priority of developing integrated, high quality social care and health services within the community or at home.

Alternative options considered / risk management

An alternative option would be not to have a Carers Strategy and attempt to meet new statutory requirements with partners but not in a joined up or strategic way. This was rejected as not providing an effective way forward.

Policy Overview Committee comments

None at this stage.

3. INFORMATION

Supporting Information

According to Census 2011 there are over 25,000 carers in Hillingdon who provide unpaid support. Their contribution to the health and wellbeing of those they care for is significant. Carers say that supporting someone to live an independent life at home, in the community they know, can be very rewarding. However the cost to carers themselves can be considerable in terms of their own health, financial situation, employment position and independence.

The Carers Strategy sets out the Council and HCCG's joint vision and strategic aims for carers of people within the London Borough of Hillingdon. It also outlines a delivery plan for activity that the Council, HCCG and its partners will deliver over the course of the Strategy. This delivery plan will be updated on an annual basis and monitored by the Carers Strategy Group with updates to the Health and Wellbeing Board via the Health and Wellbeing Strategy performance report.

The Strategy builds on the Carers Commissioning Plan 2011-15, published in 2011 and shows how support will be delivered for those who help Hillingdon's residents to live independently in the community. The Strategy also covers the needs of young carers and replaces the Young Carers Strategy 2007-12.

The Carers Strategy has four priority areas based on what we want carers to be able to say, as shown in the foreword. The priority areas are:

- Health and Wellbeing;
- Financial circumstances including advice and information;
- A life outside of caring; and
- Recognition of the caring role.

The Strategy provides a definition of a carer, local and national carer specific demography, an overview of the National Carers Strategy, the services that we provide and the feedback from our own local carers. It is deliberately high level, reflecting National priorities and legislation.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial costs associated with this Strategy. However, there will be more carers assessments being completed which will have financial implications.

4. EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

The Carers Strategy 2015-18 will demonstrate to residents and carers in Hillingdon, the Council's, HCCG and its partners' commitment to supporting carers and acknowledging the vital service they provide.

Consultation carried out or required

A full consultation programme has been completed to establish what unpaid carers in Hillingdon want and need to be healthy, happy and supported in their caring role. This has been carried out in partnership with HCCG, Hillingdon Carers and other voluntary organisations such as the Alzheimer's Society.

The consultation activity has centred around an online and paper based survey along with face to face drop-in's at Hillingdon Hospital, Uxbridge and Botwell libraries and at Carers Cafes. As at 31 March 2015, over 100 carers have provided feedback.

Results of the consultation are presented in the Strategy in Appendix B and have been the key building blocks upon which the activities in the delivery plan are built.

5. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

Whilst there are no direct financial costs associated with this Strategy, there will be more carers assessments being undertaken arising from the new responsibilities following the implementation of the Care Act. For 2015/16, the Council's approved budget contains new burdens funding provided to the council to support the implementation of the Care Act including funding for additional carers assessments and any care needs identified.

Legal

The Care Act 2014 and Children and Families Act 2014 both present major opportunities to improve local support for carers. The Care Act 2014 gives a duty to local authorities to identify carers' unmet needs as part of their preventative responsibilities and a duty to NHS bodies to cooperate with local authorities on its functions. The Children and Families Act 2014 requires local authorities to take steps to identify the extent to which there are young carers with unmet needs. Both Acts strengthen the entitlement to carers' assessments – for adults this involves removing the requirement to provide 'substantial' and 'regular' care before an assessment is provided.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Item 1 - Carers Strategy 2015-18
- Appendix A - Carers Strategy Delivery Plan for 2015-16
- Appendix B - Consultation and engagement results as at 31 March 2015
- Appendix C - Membership of the Carers Strategy Group