

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject:	Carers Strategy 2014-18 and Action Plan 2014-15
Committee:	Cabinet
Date:	2 September 2014
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Tuffin
CMT Member:	Carole Burgoyne (Strategic Director for People)
Author:	Rachel Silcock, Commissioning Officer
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Ref:	
Key Decision:	Yes
Part:	I

Purpose of the report:

The purpose of this report is to recommend that the Cabinet gives approval to the refreshed Carers Strategy 2014 – 18 and the associated Action Plan for 2014 – 15.

The National Carers Strategy, 'Carers at the Heart of 21st Century Families and Communities' (2008) sets out the vision that carers will be universally recognised and valued as being fundamental to strong families and stable communities. Support will be tailored to meet individuals' needs, enabling carers to maintain a balance between their caring responsibilities and a life outside caring, while enabling the person they support to be a full and equal citizen. The objectives of the strategy are that by 2018 every carer should be:

1. Recognised and supported as an expert care partner
2. Enjoying a life outside caring
3. Not financially disadvantaged
4. Mentally and physically well; treated with dignity
5. Children will be thriving, protected from inappropriate caring roles.

The National Carers Strategy was refreshed in 2010 ('Recognised, Valued and Supported: Next Steps for the Carers Strategy', 2010) but retained the original 5 outcomes.

There has been a Joint Carers Strategy in Plymouth since 2006 and this was due to be refreshed in 2013. This refresh was carried out on behalf of the Carers Strategic Partnership Board (CSPB) through wide ranging consultation with partners, stakeholders, carers groups and organisations.

The CSPB exists to monitor the progress of the Carers' Strategy, to agree and implement the Strategy Action Plan and to engage with carers and carer organisations in the strategic planning of carer services across Plymouth.

The CSPB membership is made up of representatives from Carers, Plymouth City Council (PCC), Northern, Eastern and Western Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (NEW Devon CCG), Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust, Carers Support Services (across the Statutory and Community and Voluntary Sectors), and Carers Groups and Organisations.

Consultation

Consultation to develop the draft Carers Strategy 2014-18 and Action Plan 2014-15 was carried out in the following ways:

- Sub group and workshops of the CSPB
- It was placed on the PCC portal for 12 weeks public consultation which ended in January 2014 and received 19 responses.
- It was also sent out to all our social care and health partners and to Black and Minority Ethnic Groups via the Social Inclusion Unit.
- Hard copies of the strategy were placed at the Carers Hub Plymouth and sent out to young carers groups and organisations through the Youth Service.
- Details on how to comment were announced in a press release and on the PCC website.
- A consultation questionnaire was widely distributed at Carers Rights Day in December 2013.

The responses from all of the above consultation were collated and the draft 2014 – 18 Strategy was produced, which was then circulated for comment to the Young Carers Steering Group and the CSPB. A final strategy has been produced following all of this consultation.

Outcomes in the Plymouth Strategy

There are 6 outcomes in the Plymouth Carers Strategy, the first five reflect the National Carers Strategy outcomes and we have added a sixth outcome which is to identify hidden carers.

1. Recognised and supported as an expert care partner
2. Enjoying a life outside caring
3. Not financially disadvantaged
4. Mentally and physically well; treated with dignity
5. Children will be thriving, protected from inappropriate caring roles
6. Identifying hidden carers

Each of the outcomes in the Strategy has an associated set of actions that was developed in consultation with the CSPB and a performance dashboard is being developed which will enable us to monitor progress against the strategy.

The Brilliant Co-operative Council Corporate Plan 2013/14 -2016/17:

The Carers Strategy helps meet the City's vision to be a place where an outstanding quality of life can be enjoyed by everyone as it focuses on 6 key outcomes for carers which will help to enhance their quality of life and ensure that they can enjoy a life outside of caring.

The Carers Strategy supports the Council's Values:

- Democratic: the process of creating the Strategy and Action Plan has been carried out with the involvement of carers throughout the process and there are carer representatives and groups on the Carers Strategic Partnership Board that will monitor implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan
- Responsible: the Council takes its responsibility to support carers seriously, recognising their key importance in maintaining the independence and wellbeing of the person they care for
- Fair: through implementing the strategy the Council aims to treat carers fairly and remove barriers to them being able to engage and participate

- Partners: The Carers Strategy and Action Plan have been created and will be implemented in partnership with a wide range of organisations and carers groups

The Carers Strategy and Action Plan fits with the Caring Plymouth agenda, promoting carers health and wellbeing and striving towards carers being treated equally. This will support the achievement of the Caring Plymouth outcomes in terms of prevention, enabling carers to take control of their lives and treating carers with dignity and respect.

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land

There are no implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan or Resource Implications directly related to this Strategy and Action Plan. The recommendations and actions included in both documents aim to improve the city's response to Carers within the existing financial envelope.

Other Implications: e.g. Child Poverty, Community Safety, Health and Safety and Risk Management:

The Carers Strategy and Action Plan will support children to thrive and be protected from inappropriate caring roles for example by:

- Develop a single assessment and referral tool for citywide use for young carers
- Continue to develop the adult workforce in the city to ensure that professionals understand the impact inappropriate caring has on children and the need to take action to reduce this
- Develop knowledge about hidden harm to understand the impact of mental health and substance misuse on young carers and use this to develop services to meet need
- Provide support to schools to better recognise young carers and provide consistent support and information for young carers across all schools
- Continue to embed the Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy across the city to ensure support is offered to young carers at the right time and at the right level by agencies working in partnership to meet the needs of the whole family

Equality and Diversity

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken?

When considering this proposal it is important to have due regard to the public sector equalities duties imposed upon the Council by section 149 Equalities Act 2010 to

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic from those who do not and to
- Foster good relations between people who share protected characteristics and others

The relevant protected characteristics for this purpose are: (a) age; (b) disability; (c) gender reassignment; (d) pregnancy and maternity; (e) race; (f) religion or belief; (g) sex; (h) sexual orientation

Individual Equality Impact Assessments will be completed for specific commissioning, procurement and service development activity that flows out of the strategies. This will ensure specific and detailed consideration of the impact of service changes resulting from the high level strategic documentation as services are developed.

Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:

Following a thorough consultation process, a new and robust Plymouth Carers Strategy and Action Plan are ready to be approved.

To adopt the Carers Strategy 2014 – 18 and associated Action Plan 2014 - 15

Alternative options considered and rejected:

None

Published work / information:

Carers' Strategic Partnership Board

<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/socialcareandhealth/adultsocialcare/carersupport/carersstrategicpartnershipboard.htm>

Background papers:

None

Sign off:

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Originating SMT Member: David Simpkins													
Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the contents of the report? Yes													