

To: **The Executive**
19 September 2023

All Age Integrated Carers Strategy 2024-2029
Executive Director: People

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The All-Age Integrated Carers Strategy 2024-2029 will provide direction on carers' support provided together with partners in health and the voluntary and community sector over the next five years.

2 Recommendations

That the Executive:

- 2.1 Approve the draft All-Age Integrated Carers Strategy 2024-2029, as the basis for public consultation over a period of 12 weeks.**
- 2.2 Delegate approval to the Executive Director: People in consultation with the Executive Member for Adult Services, Health and Housing and the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning to endorse and sign off the consultation process.**
- 2.3 Receives a revised draft of the strategy following consideration of consultation feedback. 3 Reasons for Recommendation(S)**
- 3.1 The All-Age Integrated Carers Strategy will support the Council in meeting their statutory responsibilities to carers and young carers as determined under the Care Act 2014 and Children and Families Act 2014.
- 3.2 The All-Age Integrated Carers Strategy will support us in achieving our key objectives as determined in the Council Plan.
- 3.3 The strategy will support a number of Bracknell-Forest Place Health and Care Plan 2022-2025 priority areas.
- 3.4 Public consultation of the co-produced strategy will ensure residents of Bracknell Forest have an opportunity to understand the proposed partnership approach to supporting carers and the associated priorities. Residents will be able to provide feedback which will be taken into consideration when drafting the final strategy for publication.

4 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 Understanding carers' needs and providing appropriate advice and support to carers are statutory obligations under relevant legislations. Therefore, it is essential we identify and outline how we intend to support carers in Bracknell Forest as a partnership. For this reason, no other alternatives were considered other than the development of this strategy.

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 To date, the strategy has been co-produced with a Carers Strategic Group consisting of a broad membership across the community, health and the voluntary sector.
- 5.2 Membership includes nine carers from the community with various caring roles including young carers, providers in the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust, Frimley Integrated Care Board (ICB), Primary Care Network Leads, Healthwatch, Adult Social Care, Mental Health, Early Help, Dementia Partnership and the Parent Carer Forum
- 5.3 Information has been gathered and developed from: carers groups, carers survey, Survey of Adult Carers England 2021-2022 and Census data 2021. The carers survey was circulated to 728 known carers of which 275 responses were received. It has been analysed in the context of the responsibilities placed on local authorities under the Care Act 2014, Children and Families Act 2014, NHS Long Term Plan and other relevant policy e.g. People at the Heart of Care.
- 5.4 This strategy is for all carers, young carers and adult carers living in Bracknell Forest. The strategy is linked to a number of other Bracknell Forest strategies and priorities and should be read in conjunction with the Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2026, Frimley Health and Care Plan 2022-2025, Bracknell Forest Place Health and Care Plan 2022-2025, Bracknell Forest Children and Young People's Partnership Plan 20223-2025 (refresh) and Berkshire Healthcare Family and Friends Carers Strategy. In additional it is also informed by our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).
- 5.5 8,770 people in Bracknell Forest identified themselves as a carer in the 2021 Census (and this is expected to be higher given that many people do not relate to being carers). Of these 330 were aged 5-17 and 245 were aged 18-24.
- 5.6 The majority, 87%, of carers are not known to BFC and are self-reliant thus reducing the impact on social care. There are more carers in the 50-59 age category than any other group, these are carers currently of working age, and there are more young carers/young adult carers aged 5-29 years than there are carers over 75. This strategy looks at how we can continue to support carers in our community and reduce or delay the need for statutory services.
- 5.7 A number of priorities were agreed following consultation with carers, VCS organisations, health and social care professionals. These proposed priorities will form the key tenets on which our 'Carers Offer' will be developed and reflect some of the key themes inherent in the Carers Action Plan 2018-2020: Supporting carers today, People at the Heart of Care, The Independent Review of Children's Social Care and The NHS Long Term Plan. These include:
 - 5.7.1 Recognising and Supporting Carers in the Wider Community
 - 5.7.2 Services and Support that work for Carers
 - 5.7.3 Employment and Financial Well Being
 - 5.7.4 Supporting Young Carers
 - 5.7.5 Young Adult Carers

- 5.8 During the consultation period, task and finish groups that have already been established via the steering group will continue to meet to drive forward improvement / gaps that have been identified as essential to help us meet our statutory requirements.
- 5.9 Following the public consultation the steering group will undertake an analysis of feedback and views gathered through the public consultation to ensure consultation findings informs and shapes the final draft of the strategy.
- 5.10 A detailed action plan will be developed to effectively monitor impact of the strategy. This action plan will reflect the priorities which have been identified and determine; how these will be met, agreed timescales, and responsibilities for ensuring actions have been achieved.
- 5.11 The Carers Strategic Group will become the foundation of a Carers Partnership Group. The five workstreams arising from the priorities will be driven forward by the Carers Partnership Group. They will monitor progress and provide quarterly reports to the Place Committee and the Health and Well Being Board who will have overall governance of this strategy.

6 Consultation and Other Considerations

Legal Advice

- 6.1 All Councils have a statutory duty under the Care Act 2014 to support the eligible needs of carers. This strategy will support the council in meeting these responsibilities.

Financial Advice

- 6.2 The financial impact is currently unknown until public consultation has been concluded. After which, a budget proposal will be costed, and alternative funding sought if necessary. Currently some elements of the Carers' Strategy are funded by the Better Care Fund. Should additional budget be required this will be part of the budget setting process 2024/2025.

Other Consultation Responses

- 6.3 As part of ongoing consultation, the draft strategy has been socialised with Adult Social Care, Education & Learning, Mental Health Out of Hours, Ageing Well Forum, Frimley Health and Care ICB Carers Steering Group and Bracknell Forest Place Committee.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.4 An EIA was drafted as part of the strategy development and will continue to be under review whilst the strategy is in draft form. It is anticipated that the strategy will have an overall positive effect on residents with protected characteristics, especially carers, older people, and those with disabilities or long-term conditions.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.5

Risks	Mitigation
Lack of assurance of the capacity to deliver in some areas	Monitor delivery against action plan

Climate Change Implications

6.6

The current impact of the draft carers strategy on CO2 emissions is currently unknown. The public will be asked to consider the impact any proposed changes / increase in support to carers may have on the environment.

Health & Wellbeing Considerations

6.7 The All-Age Integrated Carers Strategy reflects the health priorities identified in our JSNA and Bracknell-Forest Place Health and Care Plan 2022-2025.

Background Papers

Appendix A: Draft All-Age Integrated Carers Strategy 2024-2029

Appendix B: Carers Population Profile

Contact for further information.

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