

To: **The Executive**
18th June 2024

Caring for Our Carers – the next five years: All-Age Integrated Carers Strategy 2024-2029: Public Consultation
Executive Director: People

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform the Executive of the feedback received following the 12-week public consultation on the Caring for our Carers – the next five years: All-Age Integrated Carers Strategy 2024-2029.
- 1.2 To seek approval for the implementation and publication of Caring for our Carers – the next five years: All-Age Integrated Carers strategy.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 **To formally approve the strategy.**
- 2.2 **To delegate authority to the Executive Director: People in consultation with the portfolio holders the Executive member for Adults and Public Health and the Executive member for Children and Young People to approve the action plan.**

3 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The strategy was co-produced with a Carers Strategic Group consisting of a broad membership across the community, health and the voluntary sector.
- 3.2 Membership of the Carers Strategic Group included 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.
- 3.3 Over 1000 carers were involved in the development of the draft strategy and the consultation process which included a survey, focus groups and engagement with carers groups.
- 3.4 The draft strategy was approved at the Executive meeting of the 19th September 2023, subject to public consultation.
- 3.5 A 12-week Public Consultation took place to ensure residents of Bracknell Forest had an opportunity to understand the proposed partnership approach to supporting carers and the associated priorities.
- 3.6 There were 5 responses to the public consultation survey (see appendix D). There were no objections to the vision or priorities. No additional priorities were identified.
- 3.7 There were no changes necessary to the approved draft strategy following the public consultation.

4 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 As best practice a 12-week Public Consultation period was deemed appropriate to ensure residents had the opportunity to familiarise themselves with this strategy and feedback any further recommendations. Whilst intensive co-production and consultation took place with carers within Bracknell-Forest in the development of the strategy, we wanted to ensure we reached the wider community.

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 The strategy was circulated widely with Bracknell Forest residents via various social media platforms and our partners in the VCS.
- 5.2 This was refreshed at intervals to draw residents' attention to it.
- 5.3 There were 5 responses in total. 4 from carers.
- 5.4 All 5 completely agreed with the Vision. 4 completely agreed with the priorities. 1 neither agreed or disagreed with the priorities but noted they had only read the one-page infographic and not the whole document. 1 person noted that support with financial matters would be useful, this was an area already been identified in the strategy under priority 3.
- 5.5 The strategy has been co-produced with carers and significant consultation has taken place with carers, health and voluntary sector providers. Over 1000 carers were involved in the development of the draft strategy. There has been engagement with 10 carers groups, the parent carer forum and 2 focus groups. The draft strategy has been widely publicised through our VCS providers and we have incorporated this feedback into the final draft. The intensive co-production, consultation and engagement with carers could account for the low response rate to the public consultation.
- 5.6 Feedback on the public consultation will be communicated on our website.
- 5.7 A number of actions were included in the strategy which will help us to achieve our key priorities. A detailed action plan will be developed by October 2024. This will be governed by Grainne Siggins Executive Director: People, the Executive Member for Children and Young People and the Executive Member for Adults and Public Health.
- 5.8 A draft action plan has been developed. A new Carers Partnership Board has been created which will develop the detailed action plan. This group is co-chaired by a working aged carer. The first meeting was in May 2024.
- 5.9 The priorities will be driven forward by the Carers Partnership Board. 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.
- 5.10 In order to support delivery of the strategy, it is proposed to employ an additional 1.5 FTE staff. Grant funding has been identified from a number of different sources including Supporting Families and Public Health that enable the additional costs to be met for a minimum period of 12 months. Beyond this, the ability to retain these posts will be dependent on the continuation of the grant funding. While this is currently felt to be a likely scenario, there is risk that it will not be the case.

However, if this is the case this would not impact the strategy or prevent the council from delivering the priorities.

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 Executive Director: Resources is satisfied that the immediate financial implications of employing additional staff estimated at £108,600 for the first year can be met from identified grant funding. As highlighted in paragraph 5.10, there is a risk that this funding will not be available in subsequent years. Should the grant funding not continue, the future level of resources will need to be re-considered.

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 Integrated Care Board Carers Steering Group and Bracknell Forest Place Committee.
- 6.4 Prior to the public consultation over 1200 carers had been consulted. There were 278 responses to our survey and 150 carers who gave face-to-face feedback.

Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 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 impact of the carers strategy on CO2 emissions is currently unknown. Increase in support to carers may have an environmental impact. This will be considered as part of any new proposal considering different ways of working with carers.

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: Caring for Our Carers - All-Age Integrated Carers Strategy 2024-2029

Appendix B: Carers for Our Carers - Infographic

Appendix C: Caring for Our Carers - Executive Summary

Appendix D: Public consultation responses

Contact for further information.

Grainne Siggins

Executive Director: People

Grainne.Siggins@bracknell-forest.gov.uk