

CABINET

13 December 2022

LLR CARER'S STRAEGY

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Care

Strategic Aim:	Healthy and Well	
Key Decision: No	Forward Plan Reference: FP/300922	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Cllr S Harvey, Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Care	
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Ward Councillors	N/A	

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the LLR Joint Carers Strategy Refresh 2022-2025.
2. Approves the associated Rutland County Council Carers Delivery Plan

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To share the LLR Joint Carers Strategy Refresh 2022-2025 Recognising, Valuing and Supporting Carers in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and Rutland County Council Carers Delivery Plan to gain Cabinet approval.

2. BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The strategy is to ensure that carers across Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland have access to support that promotes their physical and emotional wellbeing. An important element is identifying carers early and ensuring that the right support is accessible in the right places and at the right time for all carers.
- 2.2 Carers play an essential role in our communities, often without recognition of the commitments they make and the substantial impact that their commitment to others

can have on their own wellbeing.

- 2.3 The LLR Joint Carers Strategy 2018–2021 “Recognising, Valuing and Supporting Carers” set out eight key strategic priorities relating to unpaid carers of all ages, and was developed jointly by Leicester City, Leicestershire County and Rutland County Councils (LLR) and the CCGs (now the Integrated Care Board [ICB]) across the LLR area.
- 2.4 The priorities were built upon feedback of carers across the LLR area. The LLR Carer’s Delivery group agreed that the refresh would continue with the same 8 priorities especially as the impact of Covid had exacerbated the priorities as well as significantly increasing the numbers of unpaid carers.
- 2.5 Only one of the priorities received a minor adjustment. This was Priority 6, “Carers and the impact of technology products and the living space”. However, with the wealth of technology available and RCC’s need to create more digital solutions for our carers, all organisations were keen to see this priority continue to be represented and the alternative priority title ‘Care with Confidence’ is based around using technology and skills to support carers.
- 2.6 To achieve the vision and the best possible outcomes for carers, NHS and local authority partners will work collaboratively. The strategy is therefore developed jointly to underline the intent to work together.
- A key collective achievement from the 2018-2021 Strategy was the launch and offer of a Carer’s Passport across LLR.
 - Based on research conducted by University of Nottingham on behalf of the BBC there is likely to be on average 2 young carers in every classroom. This would equate to 330 in Rutland suggesting that many are unidentified. The situation is similar in Leicester City and County and so work is ongoing to create some consistent promotional materials to increase awareness. An LLR young carers logo is now in use and is included on the new Young Carers Passport.
 - Young Carers awareness training provided by Leicester City has recently been offered to all RCC staff.
- 2.7 Whilst the LLR delivery group is a collaborative group, the picture for carers across all 3 geographical areas is very different and whilst RCC aligns its work with carers to the strategy, we are open to its interpretation in the context of our local communities and positive work in RCC includes:
- Carers Team developed a 2-stage assessment to reflect feedback from independent carer’s surveys that carers valued being listened and responded positively to being signposted to universal services that promoted their emotional wellbeing and how to access mental health services. Adult Social care is cognisant of the rise (post pandemic) of mental health issues affecting our carers.
 - RCC has an Admiral Nursing Service. Admiral Nurses are specialist dementia nurses who provide support for families affected by all forms of dementia. This ranges from a one-off consultation for information and advice through to one-to-one emotional support and bereavement support.

- RCC has an approach of logging all carers on our adult social care data base that we have any type of contact with. This enabled a higher identification of carers as it logs (with consent) all carers that contact us regardless of them or their cared for receiving services.
- Carer's support worker attends weekly meetings with their hospital colleagues to promote early identification on carers at the point of admission and include carers needs in the hospital discharge process. This includes general hospital and in-patient psychiatric settings.
- Currently there are 89 identified young carers (aged 18 or under) in Rutland. All of these have had a young carers' assessment completed with them to understand the level and the impact of their caring role. 11 of these have recently turned 18.
- Pupil assemblies and staff Continuing Professional Development sessions are offered to all Rutland Schools to increase awareness of young carers.
- Parent carers provide care for a disabled child. The number of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) has increased from 2019 (224) to 300 currently. This could suggest that the number of parent/carers are increasing and/or that more children are being identified with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- Parent carers are currently supported in many ways including:

Support via Children with Disability social care, Early help support via Team around the family approach, Aiming High Short Breaks Scheme, Aiming High positive activities, Services for young people, Visions Children's Centre, support groups for people who are neuro diverse, Holiday, activities, and Food programme , Support for parent carers is also provided via partners such as Rutland Rotaract Family Support Centre, Sunflowers, Rutland Parent Carer Voice, Carers Centre etc
- Parent carer needs are currently assessed as part of a holistic assessment during a Section 17 (Child in Need) or Early Help assessment.

2.8 Ongoing challenges which will be addressed within the strategy refresh are:

- Continuing to raise awareness of the issues faced by carers and continuing to promote early identification of carers
- ongoing work with the RCC Quality Assurance Team to expand our offer around carers co-production and engagement
- developing increased digital solutions and ensuring our websites are updated regularly as well as more traditional mediums (leaflets, notice boards in community settings etc)

3. CONSULTATION

- ### 3.1
- The Carers Strategy Review was open to the public for consultation throughout June 2022 and July 2022. This was launched locally at a Carers Week information event at Oakham Castle. (The closing date was extended to allow for a delayed consultation event held at Leicester city football ground on 13/07/22).

- 3.2 Other face to face carers engagement events were held in Rutland to promote the survey along with general carers awareness.
- 3.3 Despite events to engage carers, only four responses to the survey were completed by Rutland residents. It was agreed that due to the limited number of responses, a further short period of engagement with Rutland carers would be completed. A report was produced which captured the views of a group of carers around the 8 strategic priorities.
- 3.4 From the carers who completed the questionnaire, 18 carers are supporting a family member/carer of an adult or child who does not use social care services, and 4 carers are supporting a family member/carer of an adult or child who uses social care services.
- 3.5 The age range of the carers was from 28 years old to 84 years old and the carers were predominately female.
- 3.6 Almost half of the carers thought the draft strategy 'very well' or 'fairly well' reflected carer's issues. An action to take from this is to ensure on-going work and development of carers support takes into account the comments made from those who responded, 'Don't know or Not very well'.
- 3.7 The overall feedback from the carers was positive. The responses to the 8 priorities were either 'very important' or 'fairly important' to the carer.
- 3.8 Carers did not show interest in exploring technology in great depth. This can therefore lead into an outstanding action to understand what outcome/support carers would like around technology and skills to support them to care effectively.

In summary, the discussed priorities and themes were of continued support around emergency planning, preventing, and managing hospital admissions and discharges, end of life care and accessing more responsive mental health services. Carers were generally reassured that integrated services were continuing to improve access, communication, and support in line with this strategy and action plan. Representatives from LLR met to update the Strategy with the additional points from engagement with carers.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

None identified

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Strategy and associated plans are not expected to cause have any financial implications with services already being met from existing budgets.

6. LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The Care Act 2014 places a duty on local councils to prevent, reduce and delay need for support, including the needs of carers. A right to a carers assessment based on need and a right for carers eligible needs to be met.

7. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has not been completed and is not deemed relevant to this report.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been completed as it is not deemed relevant to this report.

9. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 None identified.

10. HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report. It is intended the aims of the Carers Strategy and Delivery Plan will enhance the experience of carers across the County.

11. CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approves the Refreshed Joint Carers Strategy 2022-2015 and associated delivery plan.

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1 There are no additional background papers

13. APPENDICES

Appendix A LLR Joint Carers Strategy Refresh 2022 -2025

Appendix B Carer's Draft Delivery Plan

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.