

Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board	
Title	Whole Life Disability Strategy - Staffordshire County Council
Date	7 th June 2018
Board Sponsor	Richard Harling - Director for Health and Care
Author	Peter Brennan, Interim Lead Commissioner All Age Disability Team
Report type	For Debate

Recommendations to the Board

1. The Board is recommended to:
 - a. Review the Strategy and contribute comments, questions and any concerns so that these can be considered in the preparation of the final version of the Strategy and help inform the final cabinet decision in June 2018.

The Whole Life Disability Strategy 2018-2023

2. This Strategy sets out the Council's vision for people with disabilities of all ages in Staffordshire from 2018 onwards. It builds on the approaches advocated in the previous disability strategy for Staffordshire, 'Living My Life My Way', and redefines the role of the Council in meeting needs for the next five years to 2023.
3. Many changes have occurred nationally since 'Living My Life My Way' was written, including the introduction of new legislation such as the Care Act 2014, the Children and Families Act 2014 (and associated SEND Code of Practice 2015), the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and the Carers Act.
4. Furthermore, the political and financial challenges for the country have placed even greater focus on Local Authorities and other public bodies living within their means fostering independence and self-reliance as a matter of course, and ensuring value for money and that services are financially sustainable.
5. Whilst many of the ambitions of the previous Strategy are still relevant, for example those of ensuring children with a disability get the best start in life, and that people with a disability have choice and control in the decisions that affect their lives, the way we operate to offer this choice will need to change.
6. The Council's overall spend on adults with learning disabilities has risen by 22% over the last five years, and if we did nothing to address rising costs this figure would increase by a further 25% based on the current forecasts between 2018 and 2023. Spend on children with disabilities has risen similarly and could increase further still by 2023 unless we take real action now to help keep children safe and healthy at home.
7. It goes without saying therefore that 'change nothing' is not an option; this is clearly financially unsustainable. There is a pressing need to operate in different ways in order to live within our means and ensure value for money for Staffordshire taxpayers.

8. The Whole Life Disability Strategy sets out the Council's vision and key principles that will underpin the way we will meet the eligible needs of people with physical or learning disabilities in Staffordshire. It does not reference specific services in great detail, in order that it will stand the test of time.
9. In brief, the Strategy has the following at its heart:
 - a. To build on the strengths disabled citizens have by focusing on their skills and qualities, those of their family or carers, and those of their community. *Helping people do things for themselves* as far as possible, rather than routinely *doing things for people* is a core principle
 - b. To ensure appropriate support is available for people with a disability to maximise their independence, and prevents, reduces or delays additional needs.
 - c. To ensure that the Council can continue to meet people's eligible needs in a way that is financially sustainable.
10. To achieve this, we will:
 - a. **Prevent** people needing social care services by giving them good information and advice on how to do things rather than doing things for them.
 - b. **Reduce** the number of people needing to use social care services in the future by giving early targeted, time-limited support so that they can use services like everyone else (e.g. transport, leisure, employment).
 - c. **Delay** the need to rely on social care services in the long term by targeting extra help and support when it's needed, such as working to support parents or carers so that are able to care for their loved ones at home for longer, delaying the need for additional Local Authority funded care.
 - d. **Meet** eligible assessed social care needs with quality services that represent value for money.

Impact on people with disabilities and their families

11. The Council is looking to build a partnership with families and communities that will support people with disabilities to do as much as they can and live as independently as possible for as long as possible.
12. This will require conversations around what families and communities are willing and able to do to support people with disabilities.
13. When people have an eligible care need, we will ensure that this need is met by effective services at the best price. If someone prefers a type of support or service which is more expensive than the service or support we can offer, they or a third party will be expected to pay the difference.
14. We believe that this approach supports people's development and independence and ensures good financial stewardship so that the Council can live within its means.

Development and engagement

15. The Whole Life Disability Strategy for 2018-2023 has been developed following a comprehensive engagement and consultation process that has helped inform and shape the content.
16. **Engagement with citizens:** Engagement has included the analysis of work with 14 young people in focussed discussions, feedback from over 170 families of disabled children and young people (up to the age of 25) from an in-depth survey of parents, 20 disabled adults via a Citizenspace questionnaire and direct face-to-face sessions with two community based groups for adults with learning difficulties and disabilities on the issues that affected them, with approximately 20 people present at both group. In total, well over 200 people with lived experience of disability put forward their views via the questionnaires between August and December 2017.
17. Open sessions with members of the **All-Age Disability Partnership** (a group predominantly made up of older carers of citizens with either learning disabilities, autism, or both) as well as **seven further public sessions** have been scheduled between May 2nd and May 21st 2018 to further inform and refine the draft Strategy.
18. Throughout May 2018, other key partners, practitioners and members of the public have been given the opportunity to share their views on the draft Strategy via a Citizenspace questionnaire which has been promoted via direct email, social media and in local media.
19. The draft Strategy has been made available to the public in alternative formats including an audio version and in British Sign Language, as well as an Easy Read version to ensure it is accessible to those with a wide range of disabilities and sensory impairments.
20. **Senior Leadership:** A joint senior leadership team (SLT) workshop was undertaken on March 5th 2018, to ensure that members of both Families & Communities and Health & Care SLT's were aligned in their thinking and support for the new strategy and helped shape the desired outcomes. This session determined the guiding principles and desired outcomes, whilst the sessions with Elected Members (below) helped shape the sections on what we must deliver to effect real change.
21. **Involvement of Elected Members and Scrutiny Committees:** a workshop session with the Elected Members of the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee was held on March 7th 2018. The outcomes of this workshop were subsequently reflected on and incorporated where required into the final draft of the strategy.
22. A further specially convened joint session will be undertaken with members of the **Safe & Strong Communities Select Committee, Prosperous Communities Select Committee and Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee on May 30th 2018** to discuss any concerns on the content of the final draft and raise queries.

23. The deadlines for submission of Cabinet papers have meant that feedback from our engagement work in April and May 2018 and any changes to the draft Strategy as a result of this will be circulated for consideration in the first week of June 2018.

Implementation

24. Subject to Cabinet approval, the principles within the strategy will guide the Council's approach to the commissioning of support and services for people with disabilities over the next five years.

25. The Council will review current ways of working and the support and services we provide to ensure they are aligned with these principles.

26. Detail about specific services will be included in separate delivery plans which will reflect a rolling programme of review and improvement, and which will be updated each year.

27. There will be a need to engage further with people with disabilities and their families to ensure that any changes we propose are clear and that we have sought their views to shape these changes.

28. This will be the responsibility of the officers leading these projects and as a result it is critical that there is a joined-up approach taken towards implementation.

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Appendices/Background papers

1. Draft Whole Life Disability Strategy 2018-2023