



**Cabinet Meeting on Thursday
21st June 2018**

**Whole Life Disability Strategy
2018-2023**



Councillor Alan White, Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing said,

“Our Whole Life Disability Strategy 2018-2023 is a set of principles that will underpin the way the county council works to meet the needs of people with physical or learning disabilities in Staffordshire.

It focuses on ability not disability, how we can support people to enjoy living as independently as possible for as long as possible and at the same time, delivering best value services which represent value for money for all Staffordshire taxpayers”.

Councillor Mark Sutton, Cabinet Member for Children and Families said:

“In partnership with our families and communities, we intend to do everything we can to prevent, reduce and delay the need for people to have a long-term reliance on social care services because it is better for them and allows us to protect these services for those who really need them in the future.”

Report Summary:

Following engagement with people with disabilities, their families and carers, professionals and stakeholders, we have recently drafted a Whole Life Disability Strategy to cover the period 2018-2023.

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.

Recommendation(s)

Cabinet is recommended to:

- a. Approve the Whole Life Disability Strategy.
- b. Note the engagement and consultation process completed during development of the Strategy.
- c. Support implementation of the Strategy and ensure that it is used to inform commissioning of services.

Local Members Interest
N/A

Cabinet – Wednesday 20th June 2018

Whole Life Disability Strategy 2018-2023

Recommendations of Cllr Alan White, Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Health, Care & Wellbeing, and Cllr Mark Sutton, Lead Member for Children & Young People

- a. Approve the Whole Life Disability Strategy.
- b. Note the engagement and consultation process completed during development of the Strategy.
- c. Support implementation of the Strategy, and ensure that it is used to inform commissioning of services.

Report of the Director of Health and Care and Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities

Context and Challenges

The Whole Life Disability Strategy 2018-2023

1. 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.
2. Whilst written as a Council Strategy development work with key partners such as the NHS and Schools, as well as independent sector providers will be progressed over the next 12 months and the expectation is that a Joint Strategy will be developed covering these joint schemes of work (including Continuing Healthcare, and the Building the Right Support programme for those with complex needs relating to Learning Disability & Autism who show challenging behaviour) in greater detail. This updated strategy will then be progressed through CCG and joint governance arrangements such as the Health & Wellbeing Board in due course.
3. 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.
4. 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** any need to rely on social care services in the long term by targeting extra help and support when it's needed, such as when someone comes out of hospital or if their carers need help.
 - d. **Meet** eligible assessed social care needs with quality services that represent value for money.

Impact on people with disabilities and their families

- 5. 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.
- 6. This will require conversations around what families and communities willing and able to do to support people with disabilities.
- 7. 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.
- 8. 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.
- 9. The associated Community Impact Assessment gives further detail around the anticipated impact of the Strategy.

Development and engagement

- 10. 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.

11. **Initial engagement with citizens:** Engagement 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. The summary of service user views and feedback on the Draft Strategy is located in **Appendix D**, the feedback used to develop the first draft of the strategy is included as **Appendix B**.
12. The information from this feedback has subsequently informed the 'How it Works Now' narrative at the start of each section as applicable to preventing, reducing, delaying and meeting (statutory) need. The 'We will' actions have been developed in direct response to the issues apparent.
13. In addition, to ensure the content of the Strategy, and areas for improvement were clearly identified a full in depth **Needs Analysis** report was commissioned and prepared by our Customer Insight Team. This is included in full as **Appendix C** and a summary of key information is included on **page 10** of the Strategy as an infographic.
14. 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** were scheduled between May 2nd and May 21st 2018 to further inform and refine the draft Strategy.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. **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.
18. **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.

19. A further specially convened joint session was 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.
20. 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 were circulated for consideration by 12th June 2018.

Implementation

21. 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.
22. The Council will review current ways of working and the support and services we provide to ensure they are aligned with these principles.
23. Detail about specific services will be included in separate delivery or implementation plans which will reflect a rolling programme of review and improvement, and which will be updated each year.
24. 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.
25. 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.

List of Background Documents:

Appendix A - Draft All-Age Disability Strategy 2018-2023

Appendix B - Analysis of responses from Staffordshire residents to All-Age Disability questionnaires, February 2018.

Appendix C - All-Age Disability Needs Assessment February 2018

Appendix D – Summary of Feedback received from draft strategy in April/May 2018

Community Impact Assessment – Summary document

Report Commissioners:

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