

Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Monday 18 March 2024

Staffordshire's Joint All-Age Carers Strategy 2024 - 29

Recommendations

I recommend that the Committee:

- a. Consider the Staffordshire All Age Carers Strategy 2024 – 2029 for adoption by the Council.

Local Member Interest:

N/A

Report of Councillor Mike Wilcox, Cabinet Member for Health and Care

Summary

What is the Overview and Scrutiny Committee being asked to do and why?

1. The Committee is asked to consider the Staffordshire All Age Carers Strategy 2024 – 2029 for adoption by the Council. This will replace the current carers strategy and has been developed with carers and key partners.

Report

Background

2. The Council and the Integrated Care Board (ICB) have jointly developed a final draft of a new All-Age Carers Strategy (2024-2029).
3. The Strategy has been co-produced by the Council and ICB with other partners including the provider of the carers support service "Staffordshire Together for Carers", professionals and unpaid adult and young carers.
4. An extensive period of co-production took place between August and November 2023. A range of stakeholders were involved including adult and young carers, social care professionals in the Council and the Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (MPFT), other partners and the wider public.

5. Feedback was obtained through an online and paper survey of adult carers, carers focus groups (online and in person), a survey of families of young carers and dedicated young carers focus groups. Separate focus groups were held to consult with Council employees who are also carers as well as with social care professionals in the Council and MPFT.
6. In total, 412 unpaid carers contributed their views. This includes 379 adult carers, including parent carers and Council employees who are also carers, 20 young carers, and 13 families of young carers. A summary of engagement feedback is in appendix 2.
7. A draft of the Strategy was presented to the Learning Disability and Autism Spectrum Condition Carers Forum on 15 January. The Forum noted the strategic priorities and the process taken to reach them, and felt success depends on co-producing the action plan in a timely manner to ensure actions are achieved and that carers can stay involved. The group also asked to be kept informed about approval and delivery of the strategy.
8. The Strategy sets out seven main priorities each with associated outcomes and performance indicators:
 - a. Information Advice and Guidance
 - b. Identifying Carers
 - c. Physical and Mental Wellbeing
 - d. A Life Outside of Caring
 - e. Short and Longer-Term Planning
 - f. Assessment and Support
 - g. Recognition and Value
9. The approach to achieving the outcomes will be to:
 - a. Help people to help themselves by offering good and timely information about how to maintain their physical and mental wellbeing and where to go for support.
 - b. Develop a carer friendly Staffordshire by increasing awareness of carers and their needs within the wider community and employers.
 - c. Work with partners to build and use community capacity to support carers.
 - d. Promote independence by building on carers' own assets and networks and linking carers to their local community resources.
 - e. Co-produce support and services, working with individuals and communities.

- f. Encourage and enable our workforce to be able to identify carers and understand the role of the carer, and how to access support if they are a carer themselves.
- g. Embrace technologies to help identify carers earlier, link them to information and support, and use technology to support the caring role.

Governance and implementation

- 10. Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the Strategy for adoption by the Council. The ICB will be considering the Strategy through their own governance arrangements. The Health and Wellbeing Board will also be asked to consider and endorse the Strategy at their meeting on 7 March 2024.
- 11. Once approved the new Strategy would commence from April 2024. An action plan would be co-produced to support implementation.
- 12. The Carers Partnership Board will oversee strategy implementation. This Board will report into the Disability and Neurodiversity Partnership Board, which will be responsible for reporting progress annually to the Health and Well-being Board.

Legal Implications

- 13. The new Strategy is a replacement of the current Strategy and there are no legal implications arising because of this report.

Resource and Value for Money Implications

- 14. The Strategy would be implemented within existing resources. The Finance Team has advised that we should anticipate the same level of funding for delivery of carers' services from the Better Care Fund for future years, however an inflation amount has not been confirmed for 2024-25 and therefore we are not anticipating an uplift at this point.

Climate Change Implications

- 15. The adoption of the new Strategy may have minor climate change implications if we deploy community worker(s). We will ensure that any specific worker(s) are deployed in an energy and time efficient manner to minimise the impact.

Link to Strategic Plan

16. The Strategy reflects national policy and legislative requirements as well as local strategies and plans including national and local data and carers feedback about their priorities.

- a. Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- b. Staffordshire County Council Corporate Plan
- c. Integrated Care Partnership Strategy
- d. NHS Long Term Plan
- e. Staffordshire and Stoke ICB Joint Forward Plan 2023 - 2028
- f. Staffordshire and Stoke ICB Operational Plan 2023 - 2024

Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity

17. N/A

Community Impact

18. The completed Community Impact Assessment has been submitted with this report.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Staffordshire’s All Age Carers Strategy 2024 - 2029.

Appendix 2 – Analysis of feedback to engagement for the strategy.

Community Impact Assessment

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