

Cabinet Meeting on Wednesday 20 March 2024

Staffordshire's All Age Carers Strategy 2024 - 2029



Councillor Mike Wilcox, Cabinet Member for Health, and Care said,

"Carers make an extraordinary contribution in helping their loved ones lead healthier and more independent lives, and it is important that they are supported to care for them as long as they want to.

"This new strategy—produced in partnership with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and with direct input from carers themselves—recognises the extraordinary contribution carers make up and down the county, and ensures they have the help and support they need. It also reflects how we'll continue to seek

the views of carers, and work with them to ensure they are aware of the support available and building access to support in their own communities.

"We've listened to what carers want and in building this strategy and have also integrated the needs of our inspirational young carers to ensure support specific needs."

Report Summary:

The Council and the Integrated Care Board (ICB) have jointly developed a final draft of a new All-Age Carers Strategy (2024-2029) to replace the current strategy.

Recommendation(s)

I recommend that Cabinet:

- a. Approve the Staffordshire All Age Carers Strategy 2024 – 2029.

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Staffordshire’s All Age Carers Strategy 2024 - 2029

Recommendation(s) of the Cabinet Member for Health and Care

I recommend that Cabinet:

- a. Approve the Staffordshire All Age Carers Strategy 2024 – 2029.

Local Member Interest:

N/A

Report of the Director for Health and Care

Reasons for Recommendations:

1. The Council and the Integrated Care Board (ICB) have jointly developed a final draft of a new All-Age Carers Strategy (2024-2029).
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.

7. 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

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. Cabinet are recommended to approve the Strategy on behalf of 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.
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. There are no expected financial implications arising from the strategy. The associated action plan will be delivered within existing resources.

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 and we will use technology to facilitate connection of social networks for carers. This will mitigate the need to travel all the time and will have a positive impact on reducing potential carbon emissions.

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.

Appendix 3 – Summary CIA for Staffordshire’s All Age Carers Strategy
2024 – 2029

Contact Details

Assistant Director: Andrew Jepps, **Assistant Director, Health, and Care**
Natasha Moody, **Assistant Director for Wellbeing and Partnerships**

Report Author: Jackie Averill
Job Title: **Commissioning Officer**
Telephone No.: 01785 276 775
E-Mail Address: Jackie.averill@staffordshire.gov.uk

