

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 7 December 2023

Report of the Director of Strategic & Integrated Commissioning

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Caring for the vulnerable;

Lancashire County Council Carers Strategy 2024-27

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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Brief Summary

A new adult Carers Strategy is presented to Cabinet following engagement with Carers and others in Lancashire throughout 2023. The strategy identifies five key priorities for the county council to focus on over the next three years and will directly inform the production of an extensive Action Plan, planned for early 2024.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to approve the Lancashire County Council Carers Strategy 2024-27, as set out at Appendix 'A'.

Detail

The Care Act 2014 gives adult Carers in Lancashire the right to support from the county council, and the NHS Long Term Plan calls on the health service to improve identification and support for Carers. There were 113,097 unpaid, informal Carers in Lancashire at the time of the 2021 Census. All these Carers play a vital role in supporting some of our most vulnerable residents and keeping people safe and independent at home.

The county council is committed to giving Carers access to support so they can continue to care, including giving them a break to avoid deterioration of their health and wellbeing and the need to place loved ones in a care setting.



The Carers Strategy was developed through extensive engagement with groups of Carers in Lancashire, discussions with other councils and colleagues across the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care System, reviews of national reports and studies focused on Carers, and analysis of Census data and the Survey of Adult Carers in England 2021-22.

The strategy sets out the principles governing our support for Carers and identifies five priorities to guide this work in the future. The strategy will directly inform an Action Plan which will detail specific activity to implement the strategy's intention to better support the health and well-being of Carers in Lancashire.

The strategy will be used to inform further discussions with the Integrated Care Board and other councils in the wider Integrated Care System, to enable the production of a system-wide Carers Strategy planned for publication in 2024.

The vision for the strategy is aligned with Living Better Lives in Lancashire:

"We are committed to delivering strength-based support through Living Better Lives in Lancashire, our vision for adult social care that helps residents live as independently as possible. Our vision is to create a true partnership with Carers so they can achieve healthy, fulfilled lives, and be supported in ways that recognise the breadth and impact of their caring role."

The five priorities identified by the Carers Strategy are:

- **Better information and advice** that is easy to find and understand.
- **Health and wellbeing and living a fulfilled life:** Carers should be able to get support so they can look after their health and do the things they want to do.
- **Giving Carers a voice:** Carers are recognised and respected as "experts by experience." Opportunities to have their say are frequent and have a purpose.
- **Carers have access to quality short breaks** that are flexible, varied, and easy to understand and arrange, and that help to support Carers' health and well-being.
- **Reshape and join-up services for Carers** so they can more easily access care and support for themselves and the person they care for.

Appendices

Appendix 'A' is attached to this report. For clarification it is summarised below and referenced at relevant points within this report.

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Lancashire County Council Carers Strategy 2024-27

Consultations

Commissioners held focus groups and one-to-one sessions at local Carers meetings across Lancashire throughout 2023. Further consultation on the strategy took place with other local authorities in the North West and with the NHS via the Lancashire and South Cumbria Carers Strategic Partnership Group. The county council will



continue to share its findings with Carers as it develops a fully co-produced Action Plan, based on the strategy's priorities, to be published in early 2024.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

Approval of the Carers Strategy will support the county council to meet its duties under the Care Act to prevent, reduce and delay care and support needs and to shape the market for care and support in Lancashire.

Financial

The Lancashire County Council Carers Strategy 2024-27 does not identify any specific budget or financial requirements. These will be considered within the Carers Action Plan and the procurement of a new Lancashire Carers Service from 2025.

Legal

The Lancashire County Council Carers Strategy 2024-27 helps the county council meet its obligations under the Care Act 2014.

Equality and Cohesion

It is anticipated that the Carers Strategy should contribute positively to the Public Sector Equality Duty's general aims and particularly the aim of advancing equality of opportunity for carers. Carers are disproportionately likely to be female (sex/gender protected characteristic) and those they care for are most likely to be from the age (older people) and disability protected characteristics groups. The resulting Action Plan will be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

