



Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Cabinet

Thursday 11 April 2024

Developing a Place Based, All Age Carers Strategy

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Paul Watling - Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care & Health Systems Cllr Kelly Middleton – Healthy, Safer & Stronger Communities & Partnerships Cllr Shirley A W Reynolds – Early Years, Children & Young People	
Lead Director:	Simon Froud - Director: Adult Social Care Darren Knibbs – Director: Children’s Safeguarding & Family Support	
Service Area:	Adult Social Care and Children’s Safeguarding and Family Support	
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Wards Affected:	All Wards	
Key Decision:	Not Key Decision	
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable	
Report considered by:	SMT – 12 March 2024 Business Briefing – 21 March 2024 Cabinet – 11 April 2024	

1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 1.1. Agrees the approach set out in paragraphs 12.2 and 12.3 of this report in relation to consultation and engagement with unpaid carers;
- 1.2. Approves a 9 week consultation period starting on 18 April 2024.
- 1.3. Agrees to delegate authority to the Director of Adult Social Care and Director of Children's Safeguarding and Family Support in consultation with the Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care and Health Systems to receive the outcome of the consultation and update the All Age Carers Strategy.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 The Council has a statutory duty under the Care Act 2014 to provide services to address carers need for care and support. The Council has a duty to provide information and advice, to promote wellbeing and, where possible, to prevent and delay carers from needing formal care support.
- 2.2 The purpose of this report is to set out the approach to co-produce a place based, All Age Carers Strategy for 2024 - 2029.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 A carer is someone of any age who provides unpaid support to a family member, or a friend, who would not manage without their support.
- 3.2 The population of the borough continues to grow at above national rates. As the population grows, it has continued to change, with the population becoming more diverse and ageing.
- 3.3 The role of carers continues to be vital to the whole social care system, providing significant support to the people they care for. Our vision remains and continues to be, that carers are recognised and valued by the wider community and statutory agencies, for the significant support and care they provide to vulnerable adults, children, and young people. We know that carers are essential in supporting the health and social care system and offer a lot of their time and energy to provide the support that they do; we want carers to be able to live a good life alongside their caring role.
- 3.4 To support carers in a way that is impactful and meaningful, our local systems and partners need to all work together to ensure carers are not having to spend a great deal of their time trying to navigate a complex health and care system with multiple points of contact. We want to ensure carers have accessible advice, information and support by working together to offer a blended approach of care delivery.
- 3.5 In Telford and Wrekin, 1 in 10 of the borough's population reported that they were providing unpaid care in 2021 (18,026 people). This was greater than the

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proportion for England (8.9%) and the West Midlands (9.6%). Of the 18,026 carers:

- 33% (5,899 people) provide unpaid care for over 50 hours per week.
- 66 of under 16's were providing 50 or more hours of unpaid care per week, which equates to 46.5% of those under 16 providing unpaid care.
- 45% (8,214 people) said that they provide unpaid care for 19 hours or less per week.

3.6 To support the development of this All Age Carers Strategy local engagement was undertaken through a variety of methods. This included using information shared in previous consultations (e.g. Ageing Well, Short Breaks Provision, Learning Disability, Autism consultation and the Council's Resident's survey) as well as through:

- Focus groups held across the borough
- Wellbeing hubs to support with the 5 ways to wellbeing
- Discussions at Carers Partnership Board meetings
- Discussions at youth clubs for young carers
- Oakengates theatre creative workshops
- Listening to feedback locally and nationally (Carers Voice Conference)
- National Carer surveys and those who have helped develop this Strategy

3.7 The Covid pandemic saw significant changes in the role of unpaid carers, along with changes in the health and care system.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

4.1 The main purpose of the 2024-2029 All Age Carers Strategy is to work together so that as many carers as possible are informed, involved, valued and receive timely and appropriate support.

4.2 This co-produced strategy will support communities and partners to raise awareness of how carers can access advice, information and/ or support in their communities to support and sustain their caring role and celebrate carers achievements within our communities to enable the key areas of focus to be achieved to improve the lives of carers. Additionally, it sets out a plan on how we will maintain our progress and enhance those areas where we need to improve over the next 5 years.

4.3 The strategy's key areas of focus are:

- Further develop the all age approach to supporting carers across the borough
- Empower and co-produce with carers to drive change across the borough
- Support carers to have good physical, mental health and well-being
- Work in partnership with carers and the wider community to promote a carer friendly borough

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- 4.4 The All Age Carers Strategy links to the Telford & Wrekin Health & Wellbeing Strategy, in particular through a prevention and health inequalities focus. Similarly, this strategy will also support the implementation of the Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care Strategy.
- 4.5 The development of a Carers Network with the Carers Centre will support each action and provide an opportunity for agencies to feedback on developments – what’s working, what changes have been made and what is planned for the future. The aim is to have the action plan agreed by July 2024 following the 9 week consultation period. This will be reported through to the Telford & Wrekin Integrated Place Partnership (TWIPP) and Health and Wellbeing Board as appropriate.
- 4.6 Please refer to Appendix B for details on the proposed consultation approach.

5.0 Alternative Options

- 5.1 Whilst it is not a statutory requirement in itself for the Council to have an All Age Carers Strategy, Cabinet could decide not to proceed with the development of the All Age Carers Strategy. To do so would however mean that the Council would adversely affect it’s ability to support carers of all ages.

6.0 Key Risks

- 6.1 In carrying out the consultation, there is a risk that consultation will not reach enough people and, therefore, feedback is not representative of all age carers living in the borough. To mitigate this risk, across Telford and Wrekin Voluntary Organisations such as STW Age UK, CVS and Forum 50+ will be supporting the delivery of the consultation to ensure widespread awareness of the opportunity to comment on the draft strategy and engage with the consultation exercise.
- 6.2 The consultation will be carried out adopting a variety of methods to seek views to ensure that it is as accessible as possible for residents.

7.0 Council Priorities

- 7.1 This strategy will build on existing initiatives and links closely to the themes of Telford & Wrekin Council’s plan to protect, care and invest to create a better borough with the priorities:

- All neighbourhoods are a great place to live in
- A community-focussed, innovative Council providing efficient, effective and quality services
- Everyone benefits from a thriving economy
- Our natural environment is protected and the Council has a leading role in addressing the climate emergency
- Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community

- 7.2 The strategy also links closely with the priorities identified in the Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care Strategy and 5-year Joint Forward Plan.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 The Carer's strategy will be delivered from within approved Council budgets. Therefore, adopting the recommendations in this report will not have any unforeseen financial impacts. RP 04.01.2024 comment added.

9.0 Legal and HR Implications

9.1 The Department of Health and Social Care have published a 10 year vision 'People at the Heart of Care' white paper. This paper has a significant emphasis on how carers play a vital role in all our communities. It is a vision that:

- offers people choice and control over the care they receive
- promotes independence and enables people to live well as part of a community
- properly values our exemplary and committed social care workforce, enabling them to deliver the outstanding quality care that they want to provide
- recognises unpaid carers for their contribution and treats them fairly

9.2 This report sets out that the proposed consultation and development of the draft strategy will be delivered using existing resources, in respect of Human Resources implications.

9.3 In respect of consultation S.149 Equality Act 2010 addresses the equality duty and the need to have due regard to eliminating discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other acts of prohibited conduct. The Health and Care Act 2023 promotes integration of services and mechanisms for this including the ICB and duties on the ICB for the involvement of carers, where appropriate, in relation to any services for the person they care for. Duties under The Care Act 2014 for welfare and support and assistance for carers are detailed above at para 2.1. S.96 Children and Families Act references the definition of a young carers aged under 18 years and The Children Act 1989 contains duties upon a local authority to assess young carers' need within their area.

10.0 Ward Implications

10.1 All wards will be impacted upon by these proposals.

11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

11.1 It is intended that this programme of work will contribute to improve health and wellbeing outcomes within the borough.

12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 12.1 The Strategy has a specific requirement to demonstrate its focus on reducing inequalities and disparities including protected characteristics within the local population and priorities under the Equality Act 2010.
- 12.2 The proposed consultation on the draft strategy will be targeted at unpaid carers across Telford and Wrekin but will also engage the wider community. The consultation will be undertaken through a variety of methods to ensure people are able to have their say (and in accordance with the Public Sector Equality Duty and the Adult Social Care Accessible Information Standards). For example, a series of questions will be available through an online questionnaire, but paper copies and accessible versions will also be available. Similarly, online and face to face sessions will be facilitated to seek people's views.
- 12.3 The proposed consultation period is for 6 weeks, and it is anticipated that this will start on 18 April 2024.
- 12.4 Please refer to Appendix B for the consultation approach.
- 12.5 Presentation of consultation findings, any subsequent changes to the strategy and the strategy implementation action plan to Simon Froud - Director of Adult Social Care and Cllr Paul Watling - Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care & Health Systems (proposed delegated authority from Cabinet) by June 2024

13.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implication

- 13.1 This report has no direct climate change or environmental impact.

14.0 Background Papers

- 1 N/A

15.0 Appendices

- A Draft All Age Carers Strategy 2024-2029
- B Consultation Approach

16.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Finance	03/01/2024	07/03/2024	RP
Legal	04/01/2024	07/03/2024	ON
Director	05/03/2024	05/03/2024	SF