

North Somerset Council

Report to the: ASSH Scrutiny Panel

Date of Meeting: 06/07/2023

Subject of Report: Carers Strategy Update

Town or Parish:

Officer/Member Presenting: Kathryn Benjamin

Key Decision: No

Reason: While this strategy, once implemented, will play an important role in supporting informal carers in North Somerset, it is an update rather than a key decision

Recommendations

To update on, and seek input into, the development of a proposed North Somerset Carer Strategy, including next steps. ASSH Scrutiny Panel Members are also asked to begin the process of identifying a Councillor who is best placed to take on the role of NSC Carers Champion.

1. Summary of Report

A brief report to update on the proposed North Somerset Carers Strategy.

2. Policy



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Carers Strateg...

3. Details

See link for presentation: [2023 07 06 Carers Strategy update for ASSH Scrutiny Panel](#)

4. Consultation

In developing the strategy, carers' views were sought in the following ways:

- Online carers survey
- Carers Inquiry Day (ASSH Scrutiny Panel)
- Healthwatch report on carer focus groups and phone interviews Healthwatch report on interviews with unheard carers from minority groups eg Syrian refugees, Asian community, disabled carers, Gypsy/Roma/Traveller community
- North Somerset Carers Support (Alliance Homes) - carer focus groups
- Alzheimer's Society – carer focus group

The NSC Carers Strategy is currently being consulted on with the following stakeholders:

- Wider Directorate Leadership Team
- Integrated Care Board
- ASSH Scrutiny Panel
- Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Sector

5. Financial Implications

Financial Implications have not yet fully considered. Costs may be associated with the following:

- Training and publicity
- Resources to proactively engage with Carers from minoritized groups
- Development of information packs
- Supporting GP practices to adopt framework of quality markers

Costs

Costs to be finalised following consultation with key stakeholders and elected members.

Funding

Not fully analysed until consultation is complete. Potential funding options, e.g., via the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, to be explored.

6. Legal Powers and Implications

The Care Act 2014 stipulates various legal powers and duties the local authority has relating to carers including:

- A focus on promoting wellbeing.
- A duty on local councils to prevent, reduce and delay need for support, including the needs of carers.
- A right to a carer's assessment based on the appearance of need.
- A right for carers' eligible needs to be met.
- A duty on local councils to provide information and advice to carers in relation to their caring role and their own needs.
- A duty on NHS bodies (NHS England, ICS, NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts) to co-operate with local authorities in delivering the Care Act functions.

7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

No obvious climate change implications, though this will be considered in terms of all proposed actions, such as the development of publicity materials and resource packs.

Online materials will be used where possible, while also recognising the importance of maximising accessibility.

8. Risk Management

A risk register is not currently in place for the implementation of the strategy. One will be developed when consultation is complete. Currently, the main risk identified is the risk of non-engagement from the ICB during the consultation stage. Jo Purser (Assistant Director) is seeking to resolve this by contacting relevant people in the ICB to secure engagement.

9. Equality Implications

No

A formal EIA screen needs to be undertaken, but the strategy itself seeks to ensure the voices of minoritized carers are actively sought, and the strategy was informed by a Healthwatch report which reflected the views of carers from minoritized groups.

10. Corporate Implications

The Carer's strategy will ensure cross-directorate implications are considered, through collaboration with other directorates who are stakeholders, e.g. public health. The strategy pertains to unpaid carers in adults services and does not currently include young carers.

11. Options Considered

Not applicable

Author:

Richard Orson (Principal Social Worker) on behalf of Kathryn Benjamin (Policy and Strategy Development Officer)

Appendices:

Links and attachments included in the report.

Background Papers:



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https://nsomerset-my.sharepoint.com/:p:/g/personal/kathryn_benjamin_n-somerset_gov_uk/EYCn0hb8zApCmZYANXnb_eMBaqGryvCOx103k77qltrd2Q?e=4%3aJe%3ai9HO&at=9