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# Carers strategy

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<b>Committee considering report:</b>	Executive
<b>Date of Committee:</b>	19 September 2024
<b>Portfolio Member:</b>	Councillor Patrick Clark
<b>Report Author:</b>	Hannah Cole
<b>Forward Plan Ref:</b>	EX4577

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## 1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The strategy is a key document in setting out how the council will support carers in the district.
- 1.2 Carers make an invaluable contribution to the lives of people with care needs, often with significant impact on their own wellbeing and quality of life. In doing so, they reduce the burden on statutory services. Consequently, it is imperative that they receive appropriate support from the council.

## 2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the attached strategy is adopted.

## 3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
<b>Financial:</b>	<p>There are financial costs associated for example on commissioned services: respite provision, not providing these services will result in Carer breakdown subsequently result in greater costs incurred by the council for the cared for person. By providing these services to Carers is also saving the council a lot we don't have to pay for the service they are providing.</p> <p>The Council and Partners already pay for a range of services and there will not be any extra financial costs implementing this strategy.</p> <p>Please see Appendix B for a summary of the Councils current spend on Carers.</p>

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**Carers strategy**

	Accelerating Reform Funding grant will be used to deliver more services to carers. A breakdown of the grant funding is also attached in Appendix B
<b>Human Resource:</b>	Officer time will be required to take forward implementation
<b>Legal:</b>	<p>Local Authority duties to Carers are set out in the Care Act 2014. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To provide and maintain an information and advice service about what can be done to help them (and those they care for) prevent, reduce, or delay the development of longer-term needs for care and support and help them look after their own wellbeing.</li> <li>b) Statutory entitlement for an assessment, support in their own right</li> <li>c) Arranging an independent advocate for any carer who would find it difficult to participate in their assessment and support planning when there is no one else to help.</li> </ul> <p>The adoption of the strategy will support compliance with those Care Act duties.</p> <p>It is important to note that the Care Quality Commission will expect that we have a dedicated Carers strategy which will support the delivery of the local authority's duties towards Carers. During the Care Quality Commission Assessment of West Berkshire Local Authority in February this year, they were keen to speak to between 10 to 30 Carers who had received Carers Assessment within 12 months. This gave an indication of the prominence CQC gives towards Carers to ensure the Local Authority is fulfilling its Care Act duties towards unpaid Carers.</p>
<b>Risk Management:</b>	N/A
<b>Property:</b>	N/A
<b>Policy:</b>	N/A

## Carers strategy

	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<b>Equalities Impact:</b>				
<b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?	X			The Strategy should support improved support to unpaid Carers including those with protected characteristics, e.g. disabilities.
<b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?	X			The Strategy should support improved support to unpaid Carers including those with protected characteristics, e.g. disabilities.
<b>Environmental Impact:</b>		X		
<b>Health Impact:</b>	X			Social Care needs are closely related to Health needs; the strategy refers to continued joint working with our health partners.
<b>ICT Impact:</b>		X		
<b>Digital Services Impact:</b>		X		
<b>Council Strategy Priorities:</b>	X			The Carers Strategy supports the priorities outlined in the Council's Strategy.
<b>Core Business:</b>	X			The Carers Strategy supports the priorities outlined in the Council's Strategy.
<b>Data Impact:</b>		X		

<b>Consultation and Engagement:</b>	<p>Consultation has taken place with key stakeholders and organisations during the development of the draft strategy. The partner organisations include representatives from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board</li><li>2. Unpaid representative (with lived experience)</li><li>3. Healthwatch West Berkshire</li><li>4. Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust</li><li>5. Carers Partnership for Reading and West Berkshire</li><li>6. The Advocacy People, Learning Disability Partnership Board</li><li>7. Crossroads Care for Oxfordshire and West Berkshire</li><li>8. Friends of Young Carers</li></ol> <p>Public consultation has not yet taken place.</p>
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## 4 Executive Summary

4.1 There are important benefits to be derived from the publication a Carers Strategy for adults and children. It provides the following:

- Clarity on how the council will work together with partner organisations to identify and improve support for unpaid Carers.
- Clarity on how the council and partner organisations will support unpaid Carers to improve their physical, mental, emotional, and overall wellbeing.
- Clarity on the council's commitment to providing information and advice to unpaid Carers when they need it and at the right time.
- Raise awareness about the role of unpaid Carers and the valuable contribution they make and enabling them to access help and support.

4.2 A draft Carers strategy has been developed and will progress through the governance process before public consultation.

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## 5 Supporting Information

### Introduction

5.1 The Carers Strategy 2019-2021 is being reviewed and co-produced. The delay has been due to the Covid 19 pandemic, and the notification received from the Care Quality Commission to assess Adult Social Care.

### Background

5.2 The process for the development of the draft Carers strategy is as follows:

- (a) Formation of a sub-group of the Carers Strategy Group which has reviewed the existing Carers Strategy
- (b) Development of an Action Plan which will be monitored by the Carers Strategy Group in the quarterly meetings.

### Proposals

5.3 The proposal is for the draft strategy to be presented to Operations Board

## 6 Other options considered.

To not develop a Carers' Strategy. This is not advised as it will undermine the support to this important group.

## 7 Conclusion

The adoption of the Carers' Strategy is an important step in ensuring that carers are appropriately supported by the council and partner agencies.

## 8 Appendices

8.1 Appendix A – Equalities Impact Assessment stage one

Appendix B- Council's spend on Carers and breakdown of Accelerating Reform Fund Grant 2023-2025

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### Subject to Call-In:

Yes:  No:

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval

Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council

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## Carers strategy

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Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position	<input type="checkbox"/>
Considered or reviewed by Scrutiny Commission or associated Committees, Task Groups within preceding six months	<input type="checkbox"/>
Item is Urgent Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report is to note only	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Officer details:

Name: Hannah Cole

Job Title: Service Manager and Principal Social Worker for Adults

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## Appendix A

### Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) - Stage One

<b>What is the proposed decision that you are asking the Executive to make:</b>	For the Carers Strategy 2024-2027 be adopted.
<b>Summary of relevant legislation:</b>	The Care Act 2014,
<b>Does the proposed decision conflict with any of the Council’s priorities for improvement?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure our vulnerable children and adults achieve better outcomes</li> <li>• Support everyone to reach their full potential</li> <li>• Support businesses to start develop and thrive in West Berkshire</li> <li>• Develop local infrastructure including housing to support and grow the local economy Maintain a green district</li> <li>• Ensure sustainable services through innovation and partnerships</li> </ul>	<b>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></b> <b>If yes, please indicate which priority and provide an explanation</b>
<b>Name of Budget Holder:</b>	Hannah Cole
<b>Name of Service/Directorate:</b>	Adult Social Care /People
<b>Name of assessor:</b>	Hannah Cole
<b>Date of assessment:</b>	25.06.2024
<b>Version and release date (if applicable):</b>	

Is this a .... ?		Is this policy, strategy, function or service ... ?	
<b>Policy</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>New or proposed</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Strategy</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Already exists and is being reviewed</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Function</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Is changing</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Service</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		

<b>(1) What are the main aims, objectives and intended outcomes of the proposed decision and who is likely to benefit from it?</b>	
<b>Aims:</b>	To carry out an effective consultation to support the development of the Carers Strategy

**Carers strategy**

<b>Objectives:</b>	The Carers Strategy will provide clarity on how the council intend to support unpaid Carers, how it intends to work with partner agencies and staff.
<b>Outcomes:</b>	A strategy that is of benefit to unpaid Carers providing them with opportunities for better outcomes. This will ensure Carers feel more supported in their caring role, are able to improve their wellbeing and have a life outside of caring.
<b>Benefits:</b>	The Strategy will provide clarity for relevant partners.

**(2) Which groups might be affected and how? Is it positively or negatively and what sources of information have been used to determine this?**

<b>Group Affected</b>	<b>What might be the effect?</b>	<b>Information to support this</b>
Age	Several Carers are older adults caring for loved ones.	
Disability	We do have Carers who care for a disabled child or adult.	
Gender Reassignment		
Marriage and Civil Partnership		
Pregnancy and Maternity		
Race	We have Carers who come from diverse backgrounds, promoting diversity and quality in the provision of services.	
Religion or Belief		
Sex		
Sexual Orientation		
<b>Further Comments:</b>		

**(3) Result**



Carers strategy

<b>Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could contribute to inequality?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
The Carers Strategy is an All-Age Strategy supporting inequalities among various service users and Carers groups.	
<b>Will the proposed decision have an adverse impact upon the lives of people, including employees and service users?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
The proposed decision should have a positive impact on the lives of unpaid Carers, including employees and service users. It should create opportunity for good partnership working with partner agencies.	

<b>(4) Identify next steps as appropriate:</b>	
<b>EqlA Stage 2 required</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Owner of EqlA Stage Two:</b>	
<b>Timescale for EqlA Stage Two:</b>	

Name: Hannah Cole

Date: 25.06.2024

**Please now forward this completed form to Pamela Voss, Equality and Diversity Officer (pamela.voss@westberks.gov.uk), for publication on the WBC website.**

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## Appendix B

### Council's current spends on Carers

Table showing 2023/24 Expenditure Outturn and 2024/25 Month 2 Expenditure Forecast.

	2023/24	Month 2 2024/25
58102 Support to Carer Direct Payments	£51,771	£60,450
58103 Support to Carer Other	£421,436	£522,100
58306 LDS Short Breaks Service	£452,164	£463,670
59213 Adult Respite in the Community	£32,410	£29,270
	<b>£957,781</b>	<b>£1,075,490</b>

Number of Carers currently registered with the Council is 1164 for 2023/24

### Accelerating Refund Fund Grant from the Department of Health and Social Care

Place	March 2023 - 2024			Sept 2024 - 2025	
	RNF 23/24 funding	Consortium floor funding split as agreed by LAs	Total	RNF 24/25 funding	Total
Oxfordshire	£ 71,612	£ 75,000	£ 146,612	£ 218,707	£ 365,319
Buckinghamshire	£ 52,229	£ 75,000	£ 127,229	£ 159,511	£ 286,740
Reading	£ 17,798	£ 50,000	£ 67,798	£ 54,355	£ 122,152
West Berkshire	£ 15,653	£ 50,000	£ 65,653	£ 47,805	£ 113,458
Wokingham	£ 12,550	£ 50,000	£ 62,550	£ 38,327	£ 100,876
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 169,841</b>	<b>£ 300,000</b>	<b>£ 469,841</b>	<b>£ 518,704</b>	<b>£ 988,545</b>