

Report to:	Health and Wellbeing Board	Date of Meeting:	Wednesday 6 December 2023
Subject:	Carers Strategy		
Report of:	Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Adult Social Care		
Is this a Key Decision:	Yes	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

The report sets out the development of the Sefton Carers Strategy 2024-2027. The Strategy sets out our commitment to carers and shows how partners in the Borough will work together to support carers of all ages in Sefton. The Strategy is owned by a partnership of organisations in Sefton together with carers and residents. The report seeks to present the most current draft of the strategy for comment and review and detail the ongoing public consultation to ensure the voice of carers is clear within the final strategy document.

Recommendation(s):

- (1) The process of development and consultation and engagement is noted.
- (2) The most current draft of the strategy is received by the bboard and any comments or revisions are noted.
- (3) Members of the board give commitment to delivery of the Strategy and approve the establishment of a Carers Partnership Board which reports to this board.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

This is a critical strategy for the borough contributing to the Health and wellbeing of some of our most vulnerable

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

None

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

There are no additional revenue costs incurred as a result of the contents of this report. Any costs related to future delivery will form the contents of future reports.

(B) Capital Costs

There are no additional capital costs incurred as a result of the contents of this report.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):	
Legal Implications: The Care Act 2014 The Children and Families Act 2014	
Equality Implications: The equality Implications have been identified and mitigated. An equality impact assessment is appended.	
Impact on Children and Young People: Yes The Strategy is designed to be all age and therefore seeks to support Children and Young People with caring responsibilities.	
Climate Emergency Implications: The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	No
Have a neutral impact	Yes
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes
The contents of the report represent a neutral impact on the climate emergency.	

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: The report details approach to meeting the needs of unpaid carers
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: The report details approach to meeting the needs of unpaid carers
Commission, broker and provide core services: The resultant strategy will include how we ensure the right services are provided
Place – leadership and influencer: The report details approach to meeting the needs of

unpaid carers
Drivers of change and reform: The strategy will set the vision until 2027
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: The strategy includes the maximisation of employment opportunities for unpaid carers.
Greater income for social investment: N/A
Cleaner Greener N/A

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.7442/23.....) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5542/23.....) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

The Strategy has been developed in partnership and is currently the subject of a public consultation exercise.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the board meeting.

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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

The Equality Impact Assessment

Background Papers:

The following background papers, which are not available elsewhere on the Internet can be accessed on the Council website:

[Sefton All Age Carers' Strategy](#)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Sefton Carers Strategy 2024-2027 sets out our commitment to carers and shows how partners in the Borough will work together to support carers of all ages in Sefton. The Strategy is owned by a partnership of organisations in Sefton together with carers and residents. The Carers Strategy steering group has developed a draft Strategy and have now embarked on a consultation and engagement exercise to ensure the final strategy is co-produced. The report sets out how the draft has been developed, details of the consultation and the next steps.
- 1.2 The vision is that unpaid carers of all ages in Sefton will have support for their physical health, mental health and wellbeing needs whilst they are meeting the needs of the person they care for, ensuring carers own life choices and ambitions are supported and recognised whilst also ensuring that unpaid carers in Sefton have the help and support they need as they look after the people they care for and to look after themselves. The current draft Strategy itself can be viewed here: [Sefton All Age Carers' Strategy](#)
- 1.3 The 2014-2019 Strategy was due to be reviewed via several engagement events throughout early 2020. Due to the Covid pandemic, this limited the amount of engagement that could be conducted. This is an update to that Strategy which has been co-ordinated by a Carers Strategy Steering Group which includes representatives from all partners in Sefton including the Council, Health Services, Sefton Carers Centre, Sefton CVS, Sefton Parent Carers Forum and other voluntary sector organisations.
- 1.4 Anyone can be an unpaid carer and Carers UK predict that 3 in 5 people will be unpaid carers at some point in their lives. Unpaid carers differ in age, the number of hours that they spend caring and the number of people that they care for.
- 1.5 In Sefton about 13% of our residents are thought to be in an unpaid caring role, which is just under 35,000 people. In November 2021 around 10,000 unpaid carers were registered with Sefton Carers' Centre. This is about 30% of unpaid carers in Sefton.

2. The process of development

- 2.1 Carers Strategy Steering Group has met on a monthly basis over the last 12 months to give oversight to the development of a robust proposed strategy document. The group has considered national and regional best practice, shared learning and alignment across the health and care system in Sefton and used detailed intelligence from the Carers Centres engagement and consultation and statistics from the national carers survey and the Council's business intelligence.
- 2.2 To ensure that the Strategy and subsequent Action Plan (which will be developed following the consultation) makes a difference to the lives of unpaid Carers in Sefton, it is proposed that a Sefton Carers Partnership Board will be set up. The Board will be made up of key partner organisations, including the appropriate Cabinet Members from Sefton Council, local Integrated Commissioners, representatives of Health Services in Sefton, Sefton Council Adult Social Care Leaders, a representative of local carers, Sefton Carers' Centre, Sefton Healthwatch, and other voluntary and

community and faith sector organisations who support carers. The Partnership Board will report to the Sefton Health and Wellbeing Board.

- 2.3 Once the draft Strategy was well defined the steering group set about designing a detailed consultation and engagement process to ensure that the final strategy is robust and fit for purpose

3. The Consultation process

- 3.1 From Thursday 23rd November 2023 to Sunday 18th February 2024, the Council is holding a consultation on the draft Strategy. This is seeking the views of people who look after a family member, friend or loved one in order to help shape the final strategy. The final document will be co-produced with Carers and they will help to develop the Vision, Aims and Strategic Objectives for Carers in Sefton. The process will also define the action plan that will meet the needs of Carers during the life of the Strategy and Action Plan. All Partners to the Strategy and Action Plan will support the consultation and engagement process.
- 3.2 The consultation is open to anyone aged five and above in a caring role. A carer is defined as anyone who looks after someone who couldn't manage without their help. The Strategy covers all ages of cares.
- 3.3 The short survey is available online at Your Sefton Your Say. Physical copies of the Strategy and survey will be available at the Sefton Carers Centre and in any library in the Borough
- 3.4 The Consultation will take a number of different forms and these will be tailored to meet the specific needs of the age group, accessibility and needs of Carers:
- 3.5 Existing events and meetings will be utilised during the consultation period to engage with carers on a face-to-face basis to get their views on the draft Strategy and to find out their views on the Vision, Aims and Objectives. It is also proposed to use a Case Study based approach to find out carers' views on how problems and issues have been dealt with previously, whether they think things could be done differently and what they think would improve help to carers in these situations.
- 3.6 The consultation will be specifically tailored for children and young people using the Young Carers Group at Sefton Carers Centre.
- 3.7 Promotional materials will be available letting people know about the consultation and how they can get involved at a wide range of venues and events across all partners to the Strategy. Promotional materials will be available in accessible and age-appropriate styles.
- 3.8 An interim Equality Impact Assessment is attached to this report at Annex A
- 3.9 A consultation report will be prepared giving details of the results of the consultation and how carers' views have been used to develop the Strategy and Action Plan. This will be shared by all partners and with carers themselves via the Carers Centre. A feedback report will be submitted to the Panel at a later date.

4. The Aims of the Strategy

This section details the proposed aims for unpaid carers in Sefton:

1. Health and Wellbeing - Recognising how caring affects physical or mental health. We will work with partners across Health, Education and Care services to look after the physical and mental health of unpaid carers.

2. Life Course of carers – Supporting unpaid carers at all stages of caring and the impact that it has on the unpaid carer.

3. Effective planning to avoid crises by providing early assistance and preparation

- Giving unpaid carers the right information and working with carers to plan more effectively. These plans will include an assessment of needs, requirements, and risks to identify the potential of a crisis before it happens. We will review the change from children's to adult's services to improve the young adult, family and unpaid carer experiences, opportunities, and need.

4. Carer Involvement - All unpaid carers will have a voice and be treated as experts by experience.

5. Loneliness and social isolation – Unpaid Carers are valued and supported to explore opportunities to build and maintain relationships.

6. Carers assessments and service provision - Unpaid carers will have access to information and support. There will be a holistic, person-centred approach to care and assistance that considers how caring for others affects relationships, children, and young adults.

7. Leisure and Culture – Unpaid carers will have access to opportunities in the local community.

8. Carer Respite opportunities – Ensure that unpaid carers can access regular breaks for themselves and the person they care for.

9. Maximising financial support– Supporting unpaid carers to make a choice about their financial options in the unpaid caring role.

10. Improve access to education, training, and employment for unpaid carers by promoting better work practices, benefit awareness and creating carer-friendly workplaces. We will help unpaid carers of all ages to understand how to access education and training.

11. Recognise and assist young carers and young adult carers and ensure that every school in Sefton identifies and supports Young Carers. - We will work with unpaid Carers including Young Carers Service, CVS (Voluntary services) Young Advisors and the schools and colleges across Sefton. We will share good practice, provide relevant tools and training, and celebrate the great outcomes many young carers achieve. We want our young carers to be able to focus on their lessons, take part in school activities and feel fully part of their school community.

5. Conclusion

The Board are asked to review the draft Strategy itself at the link provided, and consider the content of this report in order to confirm the following recommendations:

- (1) The process of development and consultation and engagement is noted
- (2) The most current draft of the strategy is received by the board and any comments or revision are noted.
- (3) Members of the Board give commitment to delivery of the Strategy and approve the establishment of a Carers Partnership Board which reports to this board.