

Report to: Cabinet
Council

Date of Meeting: 15 January 2015
22 January 2015

Subject: Refresh of the Carers Strategy for Sefton

Report of: Director of Older People

Wards Affected: All

Is this a Key Decision? No **Is it included in the Forward Plan?** Yes

Exempt/Confidential No

Purpose/Summary

To seek Cabinets views and agreement to the draft carers Strategy for Sefton

Recommendation(s)

Cabinet:

That:

1. the content of the report and the feedback from the consultation and engagement process be noted, as described in the report;
2. the Draft Equality Analysis Report and the actions therein be approved; and
3. Recommend to Council approval of the Draft Strategy and associated papers

Council:

That the Carers Strategy for Sefton be approved

How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?

	<u>Corporate Objective</u>	<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community	X		
2	Jobs and Prosperity	X		
3	Environmental Sustainability	X		
4	Health and Well-Being	X		
5	Children and Young People	X		
6	Creating Safe Communities	X		
7	Creating Inclusive Communities	X		
8	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy	X		

Reasons for the Recommendation:

The Care Act 2014 requires the Council to assess the needs of Carers and provide support and assistance. The Sefton Carers Strategy 2010-13 was approved on Cabinet the 23rd June 2010. The attached Draft Strategy provides a refreshed approach to supporting Carers taking into consideration the context within which the Council now finds itself.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

There are no financial implications associated with this report. The Draft Strategy provides a framework to guide the Council in seeking to support Carers in the context of the current financial climate.

Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

Legal The Care Act 2014	
Human Resources	None
Equality	
1. No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact on Service Delivery:

The Strategy provides a framework from which an overarching action plan will be developed for the delivery of the strategy in the context of the Adult Social Care Key Objectives, the Adult Social Care Transformation Programme, the budget setting process for the next two years and the implementation of the Care Act 2014.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Head of Corporate Finance and ICT has no comments on this report because the contents of the report have no direct financial implications for the Council. (FD 3363/14)

Head of Corporate Legal Services (LD 2655/14) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated in the report.

Are there any other options available for consideration?

There are no alternative options.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Council meeting.

Contact Officer: Sue Holden
Tel: Ext 3329
Email: sue.holden@sefton.gov.uk

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 Sefton has had a number of Carers strategies over the years, each building on the previous. The latest Strategy (2010-2013) was developed in collaboration with a number of partners across the borough. The Strategy focused on achieving 13 strategic objectives, and, over the past 3 years, agencies across Sefton have improved information for carers, provided carers with emotional support and helped improve their overall health. As well as having worked together to ensure parent carers of children with disabilities have access to breaks from their caring role, and young carers in Sefton are supported to have a life outside of caring and continue with their education to achieve their aspirations.
- 1.2 The draft 2014-2020 Carers Strategy, attached at **Annex 1** to this report, provides an overarching framework within which the Council can provide support to Carers to continue to undertake their unpaid caring roles with a focus on self reliance, independence and community resilience. Through various consultation responses the communities of Sefton have identified the following thematic priorities:
- Most Vulnerable
 - Community Resilience
 - Economy
 - Environment
 - Health and Wellbeing
- 1.3 The draft Strategy has been co-produced with carers themselves, including young carers. The draft Strategy has been developed within the context of the above thematic priorities and provides the Council with a refreshed approach to supporting Carers taking a whole life course. It has also been developed in the context of the current financial climate that the Council finds itself in.

2. Co-Production of the Draft Strategy

- 2.1 The draft Carers Strategy was co-produced with carers themselves, including young carers, and a wide range of partner organisations include Sefton Carers Centre. The process for developing the draft Strategy included a consultation and engagement process and a wide range of events and methods, including world cafe events, mini workshops, meetings, and a web based on-line and paper survey. In total, in excess of 600 people engaged with the process. Regardless of whether people were old, young, disabled, living in the north or south of the Borough, there were some common themes that repeatedly emerged which resulted in the development of the five theme areas outlined within the Strategy as follows:
- Information, Carer Involvement;
 - Joined Up and in Partnership;
 - Young Carers;
 - Whole Life Course; and
 - Information

3. Summary Feedback from the Consultation and Engagement Process

3.1 Attached to this report, at **Annex 2**, is the full feedback report from the consultation and engagement process. The feedback from the consultation and engagement process found the following:

- Carers want to be involved in discussions with health professionals and other providers about the person they care for. A concern here is that “confidentiality issues” are deemed as being more important than making sure that the carer knows what the cared for person’s needs and requirements are. This is particularly the case for young carers where health professionals are reluctant to discuss issues with them.
- Carers need to know that there is appropriate support available for the person they care for during times of emergencies, particularly when the carer themselves is unwell or unable to carry out their caring duties.
- The different services for carers and the people they care for should be joined up and closer to where people live.
- Carers need to be able to access information so that they know what is available, where to go for help and advice with regard to things such as benefits, medical advice, etc.
- Young carers would like more support at school/college and understanding of the issues they face.
- Parents with disabled children are finding it difficult to get a diagnosis which means that they cannot access support services or benefits.
- Activities for carers are often held at times which are not convenient and in locations which are not always easy to get to i.e. from 1.00pm – 3.00 p.m. which prevents parents of disabled children from participating as they have to collect children from school, or be at home for them when they are dropped off.

4. Equality Analysis Report

4.1 In developing the draft Strategy, the Council has shown due regard to the Equality Act 2010, and attached at **Annex 3** is a draft copy of the Equality Analysis Report for approval.

5. Next Steps

5.1 Subject to approval by Cabinet and Council, the next steps will be to produce an overarching action plan for the delivery of the strategy in the context of the Adult Social Care Key Objectives, the Adult Social Care Transformation Programme, the budget setting process for the next two years and the implementation of the Care Act 2014.