
CARERS' STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2008 - 11

**Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Veronica Copeland,
Adult Services Portfolio**

Responsible Director – Cliff Brown, Director of Community Services

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To obtain Cabinet's agreement to the adoption of the Carers' Strategy and Implementation Plan 2008-11.

Summary

2. The Carers' Strategy and Implementation Plan 2008-11 has been developed to identify ways to continue to provide better support to carers in Darlington.
3. It builds on the commitments and successes of previous annual Carers' Strategies and Implementation Plans, which have been in place since 2001.

Recommendation

4. It is recommended that Cabinet adopt the Carers' Strategy and Implementation Plan 2008-11

Reasons

5. The recommendation is supported by the following reasons :-
 - (a) The Strategy will enable the Council to respond to the challenges of the new National Carers Strategy and to build on its previous commitments to carers in Darlington.
 - (b) The Strategy will assist the Council to deliver the vision outlined in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

**Cliff Brown
Director of Community Services**

Background Papers

Draft Carers' Strategy and Implementation Plan 2008-11

Generic Equality Impact Assessment

Disability Equality Impact Assessment

Lisa Holdsworth: Extension 3490

S17 Crime and Disorder	The Carers Strategy has no impact on Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	The Carers' Strategy contributes to the health and wellbeing of carers and those they care for
Sustainability	There are no environmental impacts associated with the Carers' Strategy
Diversity	The Council's duties arising from its statutory obligations, under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the Race Relations Act and Sex Discrimination Acts have been complied with
Wards Affected	There are carers in all wards
Groups Affected	The Carers' Strategy applies to all carers. It will also affect those they care for.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not recommend a change to the Council's budget or policy framework
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The Carers' Strategy links to the Healthier Darlington and the Aspiring and Prosperous Darlington themes.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

6. Carers are family, friends or neighbours who provide physical, practical or emotional care or supervision to another person, as a result of that person's age, frailty, mental or physical health needs or learning disabilities.
7. Carers may be under 18 (often known as young carers), may be parents of disabled children and may have an impairment themselves.
8. People often find it difficult to see themselves in this role and may resist being called carers, seeing themselves as primarily sons, daughters, husbands, wives etc.
9. At the time of the 2001 census, 10,064 people in Darlington were identified as carers. 2330 of these were providing care for 50 or more hours per week. Carers in Darlington are found in all wards of the town, although some wards have higher concentrations of carers than others.
 - (a) The three wards with highest numbers of carers are: Park East (629), Haughton West (551) and Cockerton East (543).
 - (b) The three wards with the highest percentage of carers are: Hummersknott (13.6%), Hurworth (13.2%) and Park West (13.1%).
 - (c) The three wards with the highest number of carers providing care in excess of 50 hours per week are: Park East (187), Cockerton West (175) and Eastbourne (144).
10. Research undertaken by Carers UK in December 2006 indicates that 65% of people with a caring responsibility did not identify themselves as a carer in the first year of caring and that every year, 37% of the population will have started caring that year and a similar proportion ceased (for Darlington this is 3724 carers per year).
11. During the period 1st April 2007 - 31st March 2008, a total of 1347 carers had been on the Carers Register managed by Darlington Association on Disability Carers Support Service on behalf of the Borough Council and the PCT. As of 31st March 2008, there were 1122 carers on the register. Currently 80 young carers attend the YMCA Timeout Young Carers Project. There are an estimated 1540 disabled children and young people in Darlington (Council for Disabled Children), nearly all of whom will have a parent carer.
12. The new National Carers Strategy - Carers at the heart of 21st-century families and communities. "A caring system at your side. A life of your own" - was published by the Government in June 2008. It states that:

'Our vision is that by 2018, carers will be universally recognised and valued as being fundamental to strong families and stable communities. Support will be tailored to meet individuals' needs, enabling carers to maintain a balance between their caring responsibilities and a life outside caring, whilst enabling the person they support to be a full and equal citizen.'

13. Darlington's Carers' Strategy and Implementation Plan 2008-11 (**Appendix 1**) is arranged under six main headings which have been agreed by members of the Carers' Strategy Steering Group. These are:-
- (a) Better recognition from professionals and inclusion in society. This includes actions to improve recognition of carers' needs by professionals, statutory agencies and society as a whole;
 - (b) Information – includes actions to enable individuals to recognise themselves as carers and to make information available to them about the support that is available for them and the people they care for;
 - (c) Integrated and personalised services – includes actions to publicise carers' rights to assessment and to ensure that carers' needs are taken into account when planning services for different impairment groups;
 - (d) A life of their own – includes actions to improve provision of services and support to carers, including social activities, training and short break services;
 - (e) Income and employment – includes actions to assist carers to enter or remain in employment and to ensure that they receive the benefits to which they are entitled;
 - (f) Health and well-being – includes actions to improve support for carers from the NHS.
14. The Strategy covers all groups of carers, and should be read in conjunction with the Young Carers' Action Plan 2007-09 (and subsequent Young Carers' Action Plans), and the Parent Carers Action Plan which will be developed over the life of the 2008-11 Strategy.
15. The Strategy will assist the Council to deliver the vision outlined in the Sustainable Community Strategy, 'One Darlington: Perfectly Placed', in which carers are acknowledged as one of the groups who are particularly at risk of discrimination, deprivation and disadvantage.

Outcome of Consultation

16. Development of the Carers' Strategy and Implementation Plan has been led by members of the Carers' Strategy Steering Group. The Group consists of representatives from the following organisations:-
- (a) Darlington Borough Council Adult and Children's Social Services
 - (b) County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust
 - (c) Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust
 - (d) Darlington Primary Care Trust
 - (e) Voluntary sector
 - (f) DAD Carers Support Service
 - (g) Individuals who care for a resident of Darlington
17. The aim of this Group is to work in partnership in order to develop a more integrated model of care and support that fully acknowledges the needs and aspirations of carers of all service user groups.
18. Carers are involved in a variety of ways, including attendance at meetings and via other mechanisms, such as receiving minutes, in order to ensure that their views are incorporated into service planning and delivery. Carers' pre-meetings have also started to take place this year.

19. In addition, information about the Strategy has been included in a variety of media including a number of newsletters, the Town Crier, Northern Echo and on the Council's website.
20. The Strategy and Implementation Plan reflects comments/input via all of the above routes.
21. Generic Equality Impact and Disability Equality Impact Assessments have been undertaken.
22. The draft Carers' Strategy and Implementation Plan was endorsed and welcomed by Members of the Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee on 9 December 2008.