
**CARERS' STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2013 -16
AND YOUNG CARERS' ACTION PLAN 2013-16**

**Responsible Cabinet Members - Councillor Veronica Copeland,
Adult Social Care and Housing Portfolio
Councillor Cyndi Hughes, Children and Young People Portfolio**

Responsible Director - Murray Rose, Director of People

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To request that Members consider and approve the Carers' Strategy and Implementation Plan 2013-16 (**Appendix 1**) and Young Carers' Action Plan 2013-16 (**Appendix 2**).

Summary

2. The Carers' Strategy and Implementation Plan 2013-16 and Young Carers' Action Plan 2013-16 have been developed by multi-agency Steering Groups, which include representatives from the Local Authority and Health partners, carers and voluntary sector organisations.
3. The Strategy and Action Plan build on the commitments of previous Carers' Strategies and Young Carers' Action Plans and identify ways to continue to improve the identification and support of carers by all partners in Darlington.
4. Both the Council and the Health Service face potential increased costs if carers are not supported to continue to care and to maintain their health and wellbeing.

Recommendation

5. It is recommended that Cabinet approves the Carers' Strategy and Implementation Plan 2013 – 16 and the Young Carers' Action Plan 2013 – 16.

Reasons

6. To ensure that the Council meets its statutory duty to identify carers and assess their needs.

**Murray Rose
Director of People**

Background Papers

- (i) 'Caring about Carers: A National Strategy for Carers' (HMSO, 1999)
- (ii) 'In the Know: The Importance of Information for Carers' (Carers UK, 2006)
- (iii) 'Carers at the heart of 21st – century families and communities. "A caring system on your side. A life of your own"' (HMSO, 2008)
- (iv) 'Supporting Carers: An action guide for general practitioners and their teams'
- (v) (Princess Royal Trust for Carers & Royal College of General Practitioners, 2008, 2nd edition 2011)
- (vi) 'Recognised, valued and supported: Next Steps for the Carers' Strategy' (HMSO, November 2010)

Lisa Holdsworth : Extension 2210

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Well Being	The Carers' Strategy and Young Carers' Action Plan will help to maintain the health and wellbeing of carers and the people they care for.
Carbon Impact	There are no carbon impact implications in this report
Diversity	See section on the EIA (paragraphs 27-34)
Wards Affected	All wards are affected.
Groups Affected	The Carers' Strategy applies to all groups of carers. The Young Carers' Action Plan applies to young carers. Both will also affect the people they care for. (See paragraphs 14-20)
Budget and Policy Framework	This decision does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	Yes
Urgent Decision	No.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The Strategy and Action Plan contribute to the 'One Darlington' priority by narrowing the gaps for vulnerable groups of people in the Borough. This applies particularly to the 'healthy and supported' and 'educated and skilled' outcomes. (See paragraphs 12 - 16).
Efficiency	Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group will match fund Support Services for Carers (delivered through the Carers' Strategy and Implementation Plan and Young Carers' Action Plan) from April 2013. This ensures robust value for money for the Council when commissioning the Services In addition, both the Council and the Health Service face potential increased costs to social care and health budgets if carers are not supported to continue to care and to maintain their own health and wellbeing.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

7. 'A carer spends a significant proportion of their life providing unpaid support to family and potentially friends. This could be caring for a relative, partner or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has a mental health problem or substance misuse problems' (National Carers' Strategy, DoH, 2008). Carers may be under 18 (often known as young carers), may be the parents of disabled children and may have an impairment themselves. People often find it difficult to see themselves in this role and may resist being called carers, seeing themselves as primarily as sons, daughters, husbands, wives etc.
8. Around 2 million people become carers each year. However Carers UK found that 65% of people with a caring responsibility did not identify themselves as carers in their first year of caring. For just under a third (32%) it took five years before they recognised themselves as a carer. ('In the Know: The Importance of Information for Carers', Carers UK, 2006).
9. Information provided by Carers UK indicates that carers save the UK £119 billion per year, an average of £18,473 per carer.
10. Data from the 2001 census indicated that there were 10,064 carers in Darlington, 2330 of whom were providing care for 50 or more hours per week.
11. In the 2011 census, this number had increased to 11,048, 2758 of whom were providing care for 50 or more hours per week.
12. In August 2012, there were 1115 carers on the carers register held by DAD Carers Support Service, 66 young carers were being supported by the YMCA Young Carers Project and 61 young adult carers by the Young Adult Carers Service. A total of 117 young carers had been supported by the YMCA Young Carers Project from April 2011 to August 2012.
13. There are a number of statutory responsibilities in respect of carers. These are:-
 - (a) The duty to advise carers of their right to assessment (including carers not already known to Social Service - s.6A Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000 & Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004.
 - (b) The duty to assess - s.1 Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000 and s.1 Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995.
 - (c) The duty to provide services - s.2 Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000 or Children Act 1989.
 - (d) The duty to take into account abilities of carer - s8 Disabled Persons (Services, Consultation and Representation) Act 1986.

14. Darlington's Carers' Strategy and Implementation Plan 2013-16 and Young Carers' Action Plan 2013-16 have been developed by members of the multi-agency Carers' Strategy Steering Group and the Young Carers' Development and Implementation Group. These groups both include representatives from NHS County Durham and Darlington.
15. The two plans set out the actions to be taken by partners in Darlington to identify carers and to provide effective support to them in relation to the outcomes identified in the refreshed National Carers' Strategy. 'Recognised, valued and supported: Next Steps for the Carers' Strategy' (November 2010). This refocuses the 2008 National Carers' Strategy – 'Carers at the heart of 21st-century families and communities'. "A caring system at your side. A life of your own", which in turn built on the first National Carers' Strategy, which was launched in 1999.
16. The 2008 National Carers' Strategy states '*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.*' By 2018:-
 - (a) Carers will be respected as expert care partners and will have access to the integrated and personalised services they need to support them in their caring role.
 - (b) Carers will be able to have a life of their own alongside their caring role.
 - (c) Carers will be supported so that they are not forced into financial hardship by their caring role.
 - (d) Carers will be supported to stay mentally and physically well and treated with dignity.
 - (e) Children and young people will be protected from inappropriate caring and have the support they need to learn, develop and thrive, to enjoy positive childhoods and to achieve against all the 'Every Child Matters' outcomes.
17. As part of the refresh, with advice from the Standing Commission on carers and responses received to the consultation, four priority areas were identified as follows:-
 - (a) Supporting those with caring responsibilities to identify themselves as carers at an early stage, recognising the value of their contribution and involving them from the onset both in designing local care provision and in planning individual care packages.
 - (b) Enabling those with caring responsibilities to fulfil their educational and employment potential.

- (c) Personalised support both for carers and those they support, enabling them to have a family and community life.
 - (d) Supporting carers to remain mentally and physically well.
18. These priority areas form the basis for Darlington's outcomes based Carers' Strategy and Implementation Plan and Young Carers' Action Plan.
19. The outcomes for the Carers' Strategy and Implementation Plan are as follows:-
- (a) All carers in Darlington are assisted to identify themselves as carers at an early stage.
 - (b) Carers have opportunities to be fully involved in designing and influencing local and national care provision and involvement in planning individual care packages.
 - (c) Carers will be enabled to fulfil their educational/ training/employment potential.
 - (d) Carers will receive personalised support, both for themselves and the person they care for, enabling them to have a family and community life.
 - (e) Carers will be supported to remain mentally and physically well.
20. The outcomes for the Young Carers' Action Plan are as follows:-
- (a) Raised awareness around young carers, their needs and the support available to them – for young carers, their families, professionals and the wider public.
 - (b) Early intervention and ongoing support will be provided to families where there is, or is likely to be, a young carer.
 - (c) Children and young people with caring responsibilities are able to access opportunities that are open to their peers.
 - (d) Effective consultation and participation with young carers and their families to identify their needs.
 - (e) Young carers will be safe and will have improved physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing.
 - (f) Improved transitions from the Young Carers Service to Adult Carers Service.
21. These outcomes support the delivery of 'One Darlington: Perfectly Placed, and in particular the 'healthy and supported' and 'educated and skilled' outcomes.

Financial Implications

22. Both the Council and the Health Service face potential increased costs to social care and health budgets if carers are not supported to continue to care and to

maintain their own health and wellbeing. The Carers' Strategy and Implementation Plan and Young Carers' Action Plan will support carers with this.

23. In addition, Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group will match fund Support Services for Carers from April 2013. This ensures robust value for money when commissioning the services.

	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group	TOTAL
Carers Support Service	£50,000	£50,000	£100,000
Young Carers Service	£30,000	£30,000	£60,000
TOTAL			£160,000

Procurement Advice

24. The tender for Carers Support Services is included in the Council's Annual Procurement Plan for a period of 2 years, with the option to extend for a further 2 x 12 months.
25. Procurement advice has been taken throughout the process.
26. It is anticipated that the new services will commence from 1 September 2013.

Equalities Considerations

27. Equality Impact Assessments have been completed both in relation to the tender process for Carers' Support Services and to the Carers' Strategy and Implementation Plan and the Young Carers' Action Plan.
28. Completed EIAs are attached as **Appendices 3 and 4**.
29. The EIA for the Carers Support Services tender was completed first and included sending out EIA questionnaires by post and by email to individual carers and attendance at groups to complete them. Information was also posted on the Council's website.
30. The EIA for the Carers' Strategy and Implementation Plan and Young Carers' Action Plan was subsequently completed and included sending out EIA questionnaires, posting information on the Council's website and including information in the Carers Support Service newsletter.
31. The EIA for the Carers Support Services tender indicated negative impacts from a potential overall reduction in funding, including the cessation of non recurrent funding from Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group.
32. Actions taken following the EIA to mitigate negative impacts included amending the specification for the Young Carers Service to support young carers up to the age of

25. The EIA also confirmed the need to extend the Carers Support Service to include parents caring for disabled children up to the age of 18. In addition, match funding for Carers Support Services was obtained from Darlington CCG, which resulted in an overall increase from the previous core funding levels for the Services.

33. The EIA for the Carers' Strategy and Implementation Plan and Young Carers' Action Plan indicated primarily positive impacts for carers as result of the actions proposed, although some concern was expressed regarding the potential for decreased funding to lessen these positive impacts.

34. The provision of support for carers also supports the people they care for.

Consultation

35. Development of the Carers' Strategy and Implementation Plan and Young Carers' Action Plan were both led by multi agency steering groups, which include carers and the providers of carers and Young Carers Support Services. Both groups were an integral part of the process of developing the Plans prior to commencement of the EIA process.

36. Subsequently, group members also took part in Equality Impact Assessments

Outcome of Consultation

37. See paragraph 32 above.