
SUPPORT FOR CARERS IN DARLINGTON

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on the support available for carers in Darlington and to request that members act as champions for carers in Darlington.

Summary

2. The 2011 census identifies 11,048 carers in Darlington, 2,758 (25%) of whom are providing care for 50 or more hours per week. 197 of these were aged 0-15 and the largest group of carers (37%) is those aged 50-64.
3. Darlington has a published Carers' Strategy and Implementation Plan and Young Carers' Action Plan for 2013-16 and a further 1 year Implementation Plan is being worked on, whilst awaiting the publication a new national carers strategy. This is now anticipated 'by summer 2017'.
4. Darlington's current 1 year Implementation Plan focuses mainly on work with health, schools and employers to raise awareness of carers and their needs and the support available to them, and to increase carer identification through these routes.
5. The Council has recently been successful in bidding for a free 1 year umbrella membership to Employers for Carers (EfC). This will enable both the Council and Small and Medium Enterprises in Darlington to benefit from EfC's expertise around identifying and supporting working carers.
6. The Council provides a wide range of support to carers including: commissioned support services for adult and young carers; provision of breaks from 3rd sector providers; support with breaks/services in their own right as carers following the identification of eligible need following a carer's assessment from Adult/Children's Social Care.

Recommendation

7. It is recommended that :-
 - (a) Members note the content of this report
 - (b) Members act as champions for carers in Darlington

Suzanne Joyner
Director of Children & Adult Services

Background Papers

National Carers Strategy 2010

Darlington Carers' Strategy and Implementation Plan 2013-16

Darlington Young Carers' Action Plan 2013-16

Young Carers Memo of Understanding 'No wrong doors: working together to support young carers and their families' (ADASS, ADCS, The Children's Society & the Carers Trust, March 2015)

'An integrated approach to identifying and assessing Carer health and wellbeing' (NHS England, Carer UK, Carers Trust, The Children's Society, ADASS, Standing Commission on Carers, 2016)

Lisa Holdsworth : Extension 5861

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no crime and disorder implications in this report.
Health and Well Being	Carers can experience poor health as a result of their caring responsibilities. Identifying and supporting carers contributes to supporting their health and wellbeing and the health and wellbeing of the people for whom they care.
Carbon Impact	There are no carbon impact implications in this report.
Diversity	Caring affects all groups of people in Darlington
Wards Affected	All wards are affected.
Groups Affected	Carers are the group primarily affected
Budget and Policy Framework	This decision does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Supporting carers contributes to supporting the 'One Darlington' Healthy Darlington theme.
Efficiency	Research published by Carers UK in 2015 indicates that unpaid carers in Darlington provide support to the value of £224 million.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

8. The 2001 census identified 10,064 carers in Darlington, 2,330 (23%) of whom were providing care for 50 or more hours per week.
9. By 2011, this number had increased to 11,048 of whom 2,758 (25%) were providing care for 50 or more hours per week. The largest group of carers (37%) are those aged 50-64.

Age	Number
0-15	197
16-24	543
25-34	915
35 -49	2807
50-64	4124
65+	2462

10. Darlington's Carers' Strategy Steering Group (CSSG) meets 6 weekly and is chaired by the Council's Carers Lead. The main CSSG meeting is preceded by a carers' meeting and followed by a meeting to consider young carers' issues.
11. The remit of the group is to:
 - (a) lead on the development of Darlington's Carers' Strategy and Implementation Plan, taking into account national legislation and policy guidance and the views of local carers, and to monitor progress on implementing it
 - (b) share good practice in relation to all carers, including parent carers and young carers
 - (c) ensure that the carer voice is heard and informs the development and delivery of support and services for carers in Darlington.
12. The currently published Carers' Strategy and Implementation Plan <http://www.darlington.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/adult-social-care/caring-for-someone/getting-involved/> and Young Carers Action Plan <http://www.darlington.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/adult-social-care/caring-for-someone/young-carers/> cover the period 2013-16 and the group is currently working on a further 1 year Implementation Plan.
13. The group is awaiting publication of the new national carers' strategy. This was initially expected in December 2016, but is now anticipated to be published in summer 2017. The Darlington Carers' Strategy and Implementation Plan will be updated following publication of the National Strategy to reflect this, and will include a specific section on young carers.
14. Key areas to progress within the 1 year Implementation Plan focus mainly on work with health, schools and employers to raise awareness of carers and the support

available to them, and to increase carer identification through these routes.

15. The following actions are included:

- (a) further development of work to identify carers, including young carers, in GP surgeries
- (b) development of work with County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust about carers and dementia
- (c) development of work with Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
- (d) work to raise the profile of older carers and young adult carers in health settings and through work with employers
- (e) increased awareness of the needs of working aged carers and increased support from employers
- (f) further work to encourage all schools in Darlington to sign up to the Young Carers Charter (19 schools have already signed up; 5 are in progress and are likely to be awarded the Charter soon; 16 schools are not yet engaged with the Charter)
- (g) to consider signing up to the Memo Of Understanding (MOU) 'An integrated approach to identifying and Assessing Carer health and wellbeing' published by NHS England in May 2016 with suggested sign up by all partners on the local Health and Wellbeing Board. The purpose of the MOU is to promote partnership working between Adult Social Care services, NHS commissioners and providers and third sector organisations that will support carers of all ages, with a specific approach to the identification, assessment and support of carers and their families across health and social care.
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/identifying-assessing-carer-hlth-wellbeing.pdf>
- (h) sign up to the updated Young Carers Memo of Understanding (MOU) 'No wrong doors: working together to support young carers and their families' published in March 2015 (we are already signed up to the previous MOU). The purpose of the MOU is to offer a framework which professionals can use to offer personalised and joined up support for young carers and their families.

16. The Council has recently been successful in bidding for a free 1 year membership to Employers for Carers (EfC) <https://www.employersforcarers.org/>. This is managed and supported by the specialist knowledge of Carers UK and is steered by a Leadership Group of employers. It will enable both the Council and Small and Medium Enterprises in Darlington to benefit from EfC's expertise which includes practical 'hands on' advice and support for employers; a dedicated website, including resources for all managers and employees; practical guides and advice for managers and carers; annual diagnostic sessions in the workplace and the opportunity to share and learn from other employers.

17. The Council provides a wide range of support for carers both through Adult and Children's Social Care and through commissioned Carers Support Services.

18. The Council commissions two Carers Support Services jointly with Darlington CCG, one for adult carers, including parents caring for disabled children and one for young carers up to the age of 25. These services have recently been re-procured and the new services will start from 1st May 2017. There will be a new provider of

the adult carers service (Durham County Carers Support) and DISC will continue to provide the young carers service.

19. Both Carers Support Services provide: information, advice and guidance; 1:1 support tailored to individuals' needs; group activities to enable carers to meet others in similar situations and to take time out from their caring roles; individual carer breaks, and awareness raising with health, social care and educational professionals to raise the profile of all groups of carers and ways of meeting their needs.
20. Additional support to provide respite breaks for carers is delivered through a range of local third sector providers funded via Darlington CCG funded Better Care Fund Carer Breaks funding. This includes respite befriending for older carers; a play scheme for disabled children and young people; a carers support group for people with life limiting illnesses; counselling, carer support groups, trips and social activities.
21. There is also a contract for a Dementia Advisor Service, currently provided by the Alzheimer's Society.
22. Following a carer's assessment completed by social work staff, carers are able to access a variety of care and support services aimed at assisting them in their caring role This includes information, advice and signposting to preventative services and, where eligible needs are identified, support provided to the person they care for to enable the carer to take a break from their caring role and/or support provided to the carer in their own right (Carers Services). It also includes support to the cared for person to enable the carer to maintain their employment. Support can be provided either via a commissioned service or as a direct payment.
23. A flexible approach is taken in relation to the ways in which support is provided. In some instances a traditional approach is the most suitable, for example, care which enables the person cared for to be supported at home while their carer goes out, or the cared for person going into a care home for a short period of time to enable their carer to go on holiday. However, breaks may also be provided by the person cared for attending day opportunities, or by being accompanied to go out while their carer remains at home. The Council has also provided care at home for 24 hour periods at a similar cost as a residential care admission.
24. Examples of support provided to carers in their own right include alternative therapies, gym memberships, gardening, domestic support and fishing licences/ equipment.

Outcome of Consultation

25. Darlington's Carers' Strategy and Implementation Plan is developed and monitored by the CSSG taking into account the views of carer members of the group and the wider views of carers as relayed by the Carers Support providers. Consultation will take place with regards to how the new national carers strategy will be implemented in Darlington.