

**HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD
20 JUNE 2024**

ITEM NO.

UPDATE REPORT - DARLINGTON'S COMMITMENT TO CARERS 2023 - 2028

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update regarding progress in implementing Darlington's Commitment to Carers 2023 - 28.

Summary

2. Darlington's Commitment to Carers was launched on 17th April 2024 at a well-attended launch event, during which attendees were asked to identify actions they would take as their own Commitment to Carers, including participation in the planned social media campaign.
3. Progress has already been made in implementing some of the actions identified.

Recommendation

4. It is recommended that:-
 - (a) Members note the update provided and continue to act as champions for carers in Darlington.
 - (b) Members consider participating in the Commitment to Carers social media campaign

Reasons

5. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons :-
 - (a) To enable all organisations in Darlington to participate in delivering Darlington's Commitment to Carers.

**James Stroyan
Director of Children and Adults Services**

Background Papers

People at the Heart of Care: adult social care reform - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Darlington's Commitment to Carers 2023 – 28 **Darlington's Commitment to Carers 2023-28**

Lisa Holdsworth Ext 5861

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Wellbeing	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 and Climate Change	There are no implications arising from this report.
Diversity	Caring affects all groups of people in Darlington.
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	Carers are the group primarily affected.
Budget and Policy Framework	N/A
Key Decision	N/A
Urgent Decision	N/A
Council Plan	N/A
Efficiency	Research published by Carers UK in 2023 indicates that unpaid carers in Darlington provide support to the value of £329 million.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

6. Darlington’s Commitment to Carers was launched on 17th April 2024 at a well-attended launch event.
7. Presentations were given by Darlington Carers Support, Family Action Darlington Young Carers and Darlington Borough Council outlining Darlington’s Commitment to Carers and the support available to all groups of carers in Darlington. Attendees were also asked to identify actions they would take as their own Commitment to Carers, including participation in the social media campaign.
8. Darlington’s Commitment to Carers identifies actions under 4 key objectives, which are designed to raise awareness of carers in Darlington and to ensure that they are recognised and supported for their invaluable contribution to the wellbeing of the people they care for and their contribution to society a whole.
 - (a) **Recognising and supporting Carers in the wider community and society** – identifying carers; providing information for carers; engaging and involving carers; identifying and working with harder-to-reach groups of carers; social and community support for carers.
 - (b) **Services and Systems that work for Carers** - working with Health; assessing carers’ needs and identifying ways to meet them; training to provide care and support; psychological and emotional support for carers; support during changes to the caring

role; support for carers during end-of-life care and after the person dies; safeguarding carers and the people they care for.

(c) **Employment and Financial Wellbeing** - helping carers to stay in, enter or return to work, education, training and volunteering; working with employers; benefits and grant support.

(d) **Supporting Young Carers**

9. Progress has already been made in relation to a number of the actions identified including:

- (a) The development of a 'Commitment to Carers logo' for use by all partners
- (b) The commencement of a social media campaign to raise the profile of carers in Darlington. This is being coordinated by the Digital Inclusion worker at County Durham Carers Support and has been recognized as Great Practice by the ADASS Supporting Carers Hub. [Darlington's Commitment to Carers Social Media Campaign | ADASS – Supporting Carers Hub](#)
- (c) Development and implementation of a plan to identify and work with harder-to-reach groups of carers. There has already been a focused campaign on male carers resulting in a 24% increase in male carers registering with Darlington Carers Support. Further campaigns will focus on refugee carers (during refugee week) and veteran/serving carers and their families on Armed Forces Day and there will be a focus on LGBTQ+ carers during Pride in August.
- (d) Partnership working has been developed with CDDFT, including the employment of a Hospital Discharge Worker by Darlington Carers Support and work with CDDFT HR in relation to CDDFT employees who are also carers. In addition, there is a Durham County Support Carers and Employment page [Durham County Carers Support – Training Site \(dccarers.org\)](#)
- (e) A new Young Carers Service (Young Carers Darlington) provided by Family Action commenced on 1.4.24, which strengthens the support available to Young Carers up to the age of 25. The service is co-located with Darlington Carers Support, which will support the strengthening of work around transitions and with Young Adult Carers.
- (f) A new Parent Carers Support Worker has recently been employed by Darlington Carers Support and the Carers' Strategy Steering Group (CSSG) has renewed links with the Parent Carer Forum. A piece of work on transition planning is due to start soon.
- (g) Work is taking place with Mobilise [Support for unpaid carers in Darlington \(mobiliseonline.co.uk\)](#) which is a digital platform to identify and support carers. This has been commissioned regionally through Accelerating Reform Fund (ARF) monies from central government to look at innovative ways of providing support. It is hoped that this will contribute to more carers being identified in Darlington.
- (h) A survey is being developed to identify what support carers need to enable them to take a break.

Outcome of Consultation

10. Darlington's Commitment to Carers was co-produced by members of the Carers' Strategy Steering Group (CSSG) and family carers in Darlington and takes into account feedback

received throughout the development process. The CSSG will continue to oversee progress in relation to the Action Plan and to seek feedback from carers and other partners.