

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 19 March 2020

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People

PORTFOLIO: Children, Education & Social Care

SUBJECT: Draft One Halton All-Age Carers Strategy

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To present the final draft of the One Halton All-Age Carers Strategy to Members of the Executive Board.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board approve the Strategy and Delivery Plan.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Background

Halton Borough Council and NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have a joint Carers Strategy that was produced a few years ago. It was felt timely to re-establish a Carers Strategy Group to focus on developing a new One Halton All-Age Carers Strategy so that we have a holistic and joined up approach across Halton. The group was established and involved a range of community and voluntary organisations, as well as statutory groups who work with carers. The new strategy is based on a good practice guidance and the requirements as defined by the Care Act 2014.

3.2 Consultation in the development of the Carers Strategy

Throughout the development of the Carers Strategy, there have been a number of consultation events across Halton, as below.

- *Carers Forum - 7th March 2019* the Carer's Centre and Halton Borough Council organised a Carer's Consultation Event which took place at the Stadium in Widnes. All carers known to the Council and the Carer's Centre were invited and over 80 people attended the event.
- *Carers Week 8th – 16th June 2019* - Carers had the opportunity to complete a short questionnaire to feed into the development of this strategy based on what carers thought was working well and what could be improved. This also included a short session with young carers through the R-Time Young Carers Group.

- *Carers Forum – 15th October 2019* - This was a drop in event held at the Stadium in Widnes. Carers were offered the opportunity to have their voice heard, and to review the draft carers strategy. For those people who were unable to attend the event, the Carers Centre sent out the strategy on email and a questionnaire was distributed.

3.3 Draft Strategy

3.3.1 Contributions to the draft strategy came from all members of the Carers Strategy Group including:

Citizens Advice Halton; Carers Centre; Alzheimer’s Society; Age-UK Mid-Mersey; GP Federation; British Red Cross; Crossroads Care NW; Bridgewater; Department for Work and Pensions; NW Boroughs; NHS Halton CCG; and adult and children’s services from Halton Borough Council.

3.3.2 The Delivery Plan has been drafted from the gaps in services that were identified from the development of the strategy document. The Delivery Plan will be a “live” document that will drive priority areas for improvement forwards, ensure continuity and be led by the Carers Strategy Group in the first instance who will meet on a quarterly basis.

3.4 Launch of Carers Strategy

Once approved, the strategy will be launched across Halton through a number of different means, including a Carers Forum at the end of April organised by the Carers Centre, through the R-Time young carers group, as well as via the Communications and Marketing team on social media and the Council’s website, etc.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are two main pieces of legislation that define how local authorities and providers support carers, namely the Care Act 2014 and the 2014 Children and Families Act. The [Care Act 2014](#) and the [Children and Families Act 2014](#) introduced a number of reforms to the way that care and support for adults with care needs are met. It requires local authorities to adopt a whole system, whole council, whole-family approach, coordinating services and support around the person and their family and considering the impact of the care needs of an adult on their family, including children.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 To ensure continuity of the Carers Strategy and Delivery Plan, the first priority is to decide which group will lead on the implementation

and monitoring of this. In the first instance, the Carers Strategy Group will take on this responsibility, meeting on a quarterly basis.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

The implementation of the All-Age Carers Strategy in Halton aims to improve experiences for young carers and their families and support them by giving them opportunities to reach their full potential whilst undertaking their caring duties.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None identified.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The implementation of the All-Age Carers Strategy in Halton aims to support adult carers to improve their experiences throughout their time as a carer and beyond.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None identified.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 It is vital that the needs of Carers in Halton are met. This is strengthened by national guidance detailing clear areas to be included and addressed.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for this strategy.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None.