

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 11 September 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director
Health & Community

SUBJECT: Carers Strategy 2008/09

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To present the review of the current Carers Strategy and the resultant revised Strategy and Action Plan.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive Board:

- i) Comment on the Carers Strategy 2008/09;**
- ii) Endorse the Carers Strategy.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The draft Carers Strategy 2008/09 (attached) builds upon the aims, objectives and activities outlined in the 2006 - 2008 Carers Strategy and includes an action plan for the continued development of services for carers in Halton over the next 12 months.

3.2 The Strategy covers the next 18 months only as the Department of Health are currently consulting over a range of carers issues, including the strategic approach.

3.3 It has been developed as a result of ongoing consultations and contributions from all stakeholders, including: -

- Healthy Halton Policy & Performance Board (10/06/08)
- Local Implementation Team (LIT) Carer Sub Groups
- Carers via a consultation event
- Halton & St Helens PCT
- Halton Carers Forum
- Staff and managers from the Health & Community and Children & Young People's Directorate

3.4 The format of the strategy follows a similar one adopted within the 2006 – 2008 Strategy and outlines recent activity and proposed actions within the following areas: -

- Recognition – identifying carers
- Information
- Emotional support and support services
- Assessment and assessing carers needs
- Having a voice
- Providing a break
- Support that helps carers care and maintain their own health
- Young carers
- Parent of children with a disability
- Financial Security/Carers in employment

3.5 The main objectives of this Strategy include the need to identify hidden carers, recognise and respond to carers needs, and improve information and access to support services.

3.6 The LIT Carer Sub Groups and the multi agency Carers Strategy Group will undertake monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy and associated action plan.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Halton & St. Helens PCT have endorsed the Strategy.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 All services are funded through the Carers Grant and the Council receives £605,000 per annum.

5.2 Halton & St. Helens PCT contribute £20,000 per annum. This is invested in the Carers Centre.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children and Young People in Halton**

The strategy in relation to the future provision of Carers Services would benefit children and young people under 18 who have caring responsibilities, whose lives are often restricted in some way because they are supporting or taking responsibility for the care of a person who is ill or who has a disability etc.

6.2 **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

The strategy would ensure opportunities for work, education and learning for Carers are maximised to their full potential.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The strategy clearly demonstrates the Council's commitment, as a major stakeholder, in recognising the needs of Carers and in promoting their health and wellbeing within the Community.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There continues to be an increase in the national and local agenda around carers. The draft Carers Strategy and associated action plan aims to address issues for carers in Halton in a structured way thus ensuring that, through working in partnership with Health, Voluntary Agencies and Carers that carer's needs can continue to be met.

7.2 The Council and its partners recognise and value the essential role that carers play in supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our community. We believe that in adopting this Strategy it will demonstrate our commitment to recognising, valuing and working with local carers in delivering effective services.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed on the draft Strategy and no issues have been identified.

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

9.1 There are no background documents under the meaning of this Act.