

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Community and Children's Services Grand Committee (Health and Wellbeing Board)	<b>08/03/2019</b> <b>11/02/2019</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Carers Strategy 2019–23	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Zoe Dhami, Strategy Officer, Department of Community and Children's Services	

### Summary

This report presents the City Corporation's draft Carers Strategy 2019–23 for approval.

The Care Act 2014 and Children and Families Act 2014 gave local authorities in England a legal responsibility to assess the needs of carers, support their eligible needs and promote their wellbeing. In addition to this, the Care Act and Children and Families Act require councils to provide personalised support, and to prevent, reduce and delay future need for support.

Carers can help prevent people from needing to move into residential care and they can provide a more personalised approach to care because they know the cared-for person better than health and social care professionals. Supporting carers to continue to undertake this valuable role is therefore paramount to our health and social care environment. This strategy shows the City Corporation's commitment to carers over the next four years and prepares the organisation for the upcoming 2019 government green paper on social care.

The Carers Strategy will provide the framework for the design and development of services, support and activities for those caring for someone within the Square Mile, and for carers working for the City Corporation. The new strategy covers support for young carers, which was previously dealt with in a separate Young Carers Strategy. This report sets out the vision and aim for the City of London, outlining the outcomes of the Carers Strategy, and how it will be delivered and governed.

### Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- approve the Carers Strategy 2019–23, as set out in Appendix 1.

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. The 2011 census shows that there are currently six million unpaid carers in England and Wales. Unpaid carers save the UK economy £132 billion per annum. Providing support to carers is the best way to help prevent a care breakdown, which can otherwise result in an emergency admission for the cared-for person and/or the carer.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, research indicates that every £1 spent on carers creates £4 of long-term cost savings to health and social care.<sup>2</sup>
2. There were 576 self-identified carers in the Square Mile at the time of the 2011 census, out of a resident population of 7,400 at that time. At the start of 2018 there were 55 carers registered for support with the City of London Corporation's social care workers. While it is acknowledged that the City of London will have fewer numbers of carers due to its geographical size, the City Corporation values their contribution and is committed to providing carers with the services they need. This commitment covers carers working for the City Corporation who may have caring duties outside of the Square Mile.
3. To mark the government's commitment to carers, ministers from the Government Equalities Office, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, the Department for Work and Pensions, and the Department for Education have contributed to and invested in a Carers Action Plan 2018–2020, which has been signed alongside the Department of Health and Social Care. The government recognises that there is still more to do, with the needs of carers also central to the forthcoming social care green paper anticipated to be published early this year.
4. The Care Act 2014 and Children and Families Act 2014 gave local authorities in England a legal responsibility to assess the needs of carers, support their eligible needs and promote their wellbeing. In addition to this, the Care Act and Children and Families Act require councils to provide personalised support and to prevent, reduce and delay future needs for support.
5. Further, the integration of health and social care is a national imperative, with the Corporation a part of the East London sustainability and transformation partnership and working with Hackney through integrated commissioning. The new neighbourhood model of care across City of London and Hackney sees GP practices joining up with hospital, community, mental health, social and voluntary services to improve residents' health and wellbeing. This provides the City Corporation with a background to drive carer services and develop the way our social care team works within our own 'neighbourhood'.

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<sup>1</sup> Royal College of General Practitioners, (2013) Supporting Carers in General Practice. London, Royal College of General Practitioners.

<sup>2</sup> Royal College of General Practitioners (2015) Cost Savings of Supporting Carers to Clinical Commissioning Groups. Unpublished data.

6. Carers are vital partners in the health and social care system and a sustainable future for social care will simply not be possible without focusing on how our community supports carers. The Carers Strategy is the overarching framework that will guide the design and development of services and activities for those caring for someone within the Square Mile and for carers working for the City Corporation. It sets out the values and principles that will guide our work, our vision and aims for carers, and how we intend to achieve them.

## **Current Position**

7. The Carers Strategy explains:
  - what the issues are for our carers
  - how we plan to address them
  - what we hope to achieve.
8. City of London carers were interviewed to understand current challenges, and this was conducted through the Carers Forum and the City Corporation Carers and Support Network. We used this local intelligence, together with national data, to determine the plan's vision, aim and outcomes. Carers were then engaged throughout the drafting process for feedback.
9. To develop this draft strategy we engaged with internal and external stakeholders. The City Corporation's Adult Social Care team, Families and Children team and commissioned services were interviewed and advised throughout the drafting of the strategy. The Corporate Strategy and Performance team were also consulted throughout the drafting process.
10. The draft strategy was subject to a nine-week public consultation from 12 November 2018 to 14 January 2019. Healthwatch developed a web page which included a link to the draft strategy and a method for providing feedback. Healthwatch shared the draft strategy across social media, the Golden Lane Residents' Association website and the Healthwatch City of London e-newsletter. The consultation also included the Reach Out Network Carers' Forum, Parent Carer Forum and the Barbican Estate Bulletin.
11. The majority of respondents agreed with the three outcomes of the strategy. Appendix 2, Carers Strategy Supplement, summarises the engagement and consultation process.
12. An Equality Impact Assessment (Appendix 3) has been completed and ensures that the Carers Strategy avoids or mitigates any negative impact, advances equality in the City of London and fosters good relations (section 4, Carers Strategy 2019–23, Appendix 1).

## **Carers Strategy 2019–2023**

13. The strategy sets out the City of London Corporation's vision for carers, our overarching aim and the three outcomes that we will focus on.
14. **The Vision is that:**

The City of London Corporation fosters a community that supports and values carers, recognising their economic and societal contributions.

**15. The Aim is:**

To ensure that there is real integration of health, social, community and voluntary services that understand and support our carers to thrive, both in their individual ambitions and in their caring role.

**16. The three outcomes that the strategy will deliver are:**

- The Square Mile is a carer-friendly community
- Carers enjoy good physical, mental and economic wellbeing.
- Children and young people will be protected from inappropriate caring and have the support they need.

**17. Delivery**

This strategy will be supported by a detailed delivery plan with clear and measurable actions and indicators for each outcome.

**Next Steps**

18. The implementation of the plan will be overseen by the Department of Community and Children's Services (DCCS). The Adults Senior Management team will receive regular update reports to monitor progress and assess impact.

**Corporate Implications**

19. The Carers Strategy will directly support the achievement of the following outcomes set out in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan 2018–23:

2. People enjoy good health and wellbeing
3. People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential
4. Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need.

20. This plan sits below the DCCS business plan. It contributes to the plan's delivery by mirroring its five priorities and applying them to the specific needs of our population of carers.

21. This strategy also supports the delivery of a number of other strategies:

- Skills Strategy
- Education Strategy
- Housing Strategy
- Social Wellbeing Strategy
- Responsible Business Strategy
- Social Mobility Strategy.

## **Conclusion**

22. The City Corporation values the contribution of carers and is committed to providing them with the services they need. This commitment covers carers working for the City Corporation who may have caring duties outside of the Square Mile.
23. The Carers Strategy 2019–23 is the overarching framework for developing services for carers in the City of London that match the commitment to transformation seen in wider integration work. It outlines the values and principles that guide our services, our vision for carers, and how we intend to achieve it. This report asks members to approve the Carers Strategy 2019–23.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Carers Strategy 2019– 23
- Appendix 2 – Carers Strategy Supplement
- Appendix 3 – Equality Impact Assessment

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