

Committees: Community and Children's Services Committee – For Decision	Dated: 13/12/2023
Subject: Carers Strategy 2023-27	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1,2,3,4
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Judith Finlay, Executive Director of Community and Children's Services	For Decision
Report author: Ellie Ward, Head of Strategy and Performance	

Summary

This report presents to Members a revised Carers Strategy for 2023 – 2027 for their approval. The Strategy sets the strategic priorities for the City of London Corporation (City Corporation) and guides our activities in relation to carers.

The term carers refers to unpaid carers. The Strategy focuses on adult carers of other adults or of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) where these needs are similar. The needs of parent carers of children with SEND specifically related to their individual caring experience and the SEND system will be addressed in the City Corporation's new SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy which will be developed in 2024. Young carers are considered in, and supported through, our Early Help strategy.

Carers were involved in the development of the strategy and the five priorities within it. An overview action plan has been produced to accompany the strategy. A 'you said, we did' document has also been produced which sets out what 'we' (the City Corporation) has done in response to carers ideas and feedback.

This paper summarises the strategy for Members' approval.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Approve the Carers Strategy 2023-27.

Main Report

Background

1. There is no statutory duty on local authorities to produce a carers strategy but the City Corporation has followed many other local authorities in producing one. This reflects the City Corporation's recognition of the vital role that carers play and commitment to delivering the best possible support for them.
2. The development of the Carers Strategy involved engagement activities and evidence gathering which included a survey by the City Corporation's Peer Research Programme (resident research training) on cost of living and caring. This received 152 responses, 32 of which identified as carers. There was also a 12-week consultation exercise which included a dedicated consultation page on the City Corporation website, roundtable discussions with professional stakeholders and two focus groups with carers.
3. A summary document of some of the feedback, specifically from carers, is set out in a 'you said we did' document at Appendix 2.
4. The development of the Carers Strategy was overseen by the Carer Strategy Implementation Group (CSIG) which included five carers as well as professionals from across the Department of Communities and Children's Services (DCCS) and commissioned services; City Connections and the Carers Connections Service.
5. An action plan sits below the Strategy. This builds on the priorities and actions set out in the Strategy and provides a more detailed picture of what will be done to deliver against those priorities. Officers will explore with carers how they would like to be involved in reviewing the strategy and action plan.
6. The structure of the Carers Strategy reflects a move towards consistency of strategies developed by DCCS.

Current Position

Response to engagement and consultation feedback

7. The engagement and consultation activities provided the City Corporation with valuable insight into carers lives and what is important to them.
8. Research evidence highlights the value of caring to the economy but also the negative impact that caring can have on people in terms of finances, employment and health and wellbeing.
9. Carers in the City of London shared their positive and negative experiences of accessing support services. They told us about the negative impact caring has on their health and emotional wellbeing. We know the early identification of carers is important and carers told us that support at transition points, such as becoming a

carer, is key. Carers shared the problems they have in finding accessible information and the challenges in navigating complex health and care pathways.

10. Officers also spoke to carers about engagement and co-design. This gave officers insight which will be taken forward as part of the delivery of the Strategy, but it will also feed into a wider piece of work within the DCCS around engagement and co-design.

11. Insight gathered was used to identify five priority areas for the Strategy.

Priority areas

12. The Strategy sets out five priority areas:

- Tailored and universal services that work for carers.
- The health and emotional wellbeing of carers.
- Early identification of carers.
- Information and advice for carers.
- Engaging with carers.

Data

13. The Strategy cites various data sources to provide a picture of caring in England and the City of London.

Action plan

14. An action plan has been developed with carers to sit alongside the Carers Strategy. It builds on the priorities and activities set out in the strategy, providing further detail, accountability and impact measures. This can be found in Appendix 3.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications

15. The Carers Strategy's outcomes are designed to contribute to the delivery of the Corporate Plan 2018–2023 by aligning to these four outcomes:

Outcome 1: People are safe and feel safe.

Outcome 2: People enjoy good health and wellbeing.

Outcome 3: People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential.

Outcome 4: Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need.

16. The Strategy is also expected to align with outcomes set out in the new Corporate Plan which is currently being developed.

17. The Strategy sits below the Department of Community and Children's Services business plan and contributes to its delivery by mirroring its priorities and applying them to the needs of our carers.

18. The Strategy also supports, and is supported by, several other strategies and documents, such as:

- Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (in development).
- Adult Social Care Strategy (in development).
- Housing Management Strategy (in development).
- Early Help Strategy.

Financial implications

19. None identified

Resource implications

20. None identified

Legal implications

21. None identified

Risk implications

22. None identified

Equalities implications

23. An equality impact assessment has been completed and can be found in Appendix 4.

Climate implications

24. None identified

Security implications

25. None identified

Conclusion

26. The proposed Carers Strategy 2023-27 is the overarching strategic document that guides services and activity related to carers in the City of London. The priority areas will guide our work and vision for carers over the next four years. The City Corporation is committed to continuing to engage with carers throughout the lifetime of the Strategy to review progress and hold the City Corporation to account.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – City of London Corporation Carers Strategy 2023-27.
- Appendix 2 – You Said, We Did document.
- Appendix 3 – Headline Action Plan.
- Appendix 4 – Carers Strategy 2023-27 Equality Impact Assessment.

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