



WYCOMBE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report For:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	Cabinet 16 September 2019
Part:	Part 1 - Open

SUMMARY

Title of Report:	<u>MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE (MND) CHARTER</u>
Cabinet Member: Officer Contact: Direct Dial: Email:	Councillor Ms Katrina Wood Catherine Mackenzie 01494 421206 Catherine.mackenzie@wycombe.gov.uk
Wards affected:	All
Reason for the Decision:	The following decisions are proposed to raise awareness of staff and Members of the impact on those with MND and their carers. The decision ensures that the council enables people with MND to receive a swift response to their needs and that the correct care and support is provided. The MNDA believe by signing up to the Charter organisations are able to help people with MND, show their support publicly and know that they are making a real difference.
Proposed Decision:	That: (i) Wycombe District Council (WDC) adopt and sign the MND Charter; and (ii) WDC's intention to adopt the MND Charter be highlighted to Buckinghamshire County Council so they can also consider whether they wish to also adopt it.
Sustainable Community Strategy/Council Priorities - Implications	<p>Risk: The Charter relates to health and social care services over which WDC has little direct influence. However, people with MND have the right to maximise their quality of life and this covers aspects within WDC's remit related to timely provision of suitable housing and home adaptations.</p> <p>The impacts that District Council services can have on MND sufferers are identified in Appendix B, information for Councillors.</p> <p>Equalities: N/A</p> <p>Health & Safety: N/A</p>

Monitoring Officer/ S.151 Officer Comments	<p>Monitoring Officer: This Charter is being adopted by the Council to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it pursuant to the Equality Act 2010 section 149(1) (b)).</p> <p>S.151 Officer: There are no direct financial implications of this decision. Any costs will be ancillary and would need to be contained within approved budgets or growth bids raised through the annual budget setting process.</p>
Consultees:	N/A
Options:	<p>1, To agree to signing the Charter</p> <p>2. To decline to sign the Charter</p>
Next Steps:	<p>It is recommended that WDC's intention to adopt the MND Charter be highlighted to Buckinghamshire County Council so they can also consider whether they wish to also adopt it.</p> <p>Following Cabinet approval, the Council would publicise that it has formally signed the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Charter.</p>
Background Papers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MND Charter, the full document: http://www.mndcharter.org/wp-content/uploads/LA-Charter-brochure2.pdf The MND Charter, a guide for councillors: http://www.mndcharter.org/wp-content/uploads/Guide_for_councillors.pdf
Abbreviations:	<p>MND – Motor Neurone Disease</p> <p>MNDA - Motor Neurone Disease Association</p> <p>WDC – Wycombe District Council</p>

Appendix A - MND Charter

Appendix B - Information for Councillors.

Detailed Report

What is Motor Neurone Disease?

- According to the [Motor Neurone Disease Association](http://www.mndcharter.org) (MNDA), MND describes a group of diseases that affect the nerves (motor neurones) in the brain and spinal cord that tell your muscles what to do. Messages from the motor neurones gradually stop reaching the muscles which leads the muscles to weaken, stiffen and waste. MND can affect how you walk, talk, eat, drink and breathe. Some people also experience changes to their thinking and behaviour.
- There is a 1 in 300 risk of getting MND across a lifetime and it affects everyone differently. It can affect adults of any age, but is more likely to affect people over 50. Not all symptoms will affect everyone, or in the same order. Symptoms also progress at varying speeds,

which makes the course of the disease difficult to predict and it is life-shortening and there is no cure. Although the disease will progress, symptoms can be managed to help achieve the best possible quality of life.

What is the Motor Neurone Disease Charter?

3. The MND Charter has been developed by the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA). They describe their charter as 'a statement of the respect, care and support that people living with motor neurone disease (MND) and their carers deserve, and should expect'.
4. The Charter comprises of 5 key points with further definition on what each key point means for people with MND:
 - The right to an early diagnosis and information
 - The right to access quality care and treatments
 - The right to be treated as individuals and with dignity and respect
 - The right to maximise their quality of life
 - Carers of people with MND have the right to be valued, respected, listened to and well-supported
5. The MNDA believe by signing up to the Charter organisations are able to help people with MND, show their support publicly and know that they are making a real difference.

What does it mean?

6. It is expected that adopting the Charter means WDC agrees to:
 - promote the MND Charter as widely as possible
 - share the promotional materials e.g. with councillors and council staff
 - consider other ways of working together to support people with MND.
7. The MND Association believe that if the right care is provided for MND it can save public services money in the long run. But more importantly, it can make a positive difference to the lives of people with MND, their carers and their loved ones.
8. The Council currently supports persons with disabilities through social housing, home adaptations, Housing Benefits and Council Tax Reduction, where applicable.