

Report for:	Shadow Executive
Meeting Date:	10th March 2020

Title of Report:	All Age Carers Strategy
Shadow Portfolio Holder	Angela Macpherson and Warren Whyte
Responsible Officer	Elaina Quesada – Service Director, Integrated Commissioning Email: c-quesada@buckscc.gov.uk
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Recommendations:	Members are asked to AGREE the All Age Carers Strategy
Corporate Implications:	<p>Services for Carers are jointly commissioned by the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group. These joint arrangements will continue between the Unitary Authority and the Clinical Commissioning Group post vesting day, with contracts transferring to the new organisation.</p> <p>The All Age Carers Strategy presents a vision for supporting carers that applies across system partners, recognising that our collective response is delivered across a range of statutory and non- statutory organisations. This is not impacted by the move to a new Unitary Council.</p> <p>The document has been revised so that it is branding neutral pending the launch of Buckinghamshire Council on the 1/4/2020.</p>
Options: (If any)	Option to not publish a Carers Strategy – the reputational risk to the Council is felt to be high due to the expectation that has been set through the engagement undertaken to date.
Reason:	<p>The current Carers Strategy for adult carers and young adult carers (age 16+) expired in 2019. This strategy takes a holistic approach to how we provide support for carers of all ages. The strategy has been produced with the Clinical Commissioning Group to ensure there is a single approach across health and Local Authority services.</p> <p>The strategy reflects national legislation and guidance whilst also applying weight to issues that are key to the people of Buckinghamshire.</p>

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To gain agreement the All Age Carers Strategy, which will:
- Create a single, all age approach to supporting Carers in Buckinghamshire
 - Highlight the demographic needs of Buckinghamshire through data analysis and consultation and engagement

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Carers are one of Buckinghamshire's most valuable assets. This new strategy draws on what Carers have told us about their experience to set a vision for how the Council, Clinical Commissioning Group and partners can support Carers in their role.
- 2.2 The new strategy replaces the previous Carers Strategy which expired in 2019 and focused on adult Carers. It takes an all age approach to supporting carers, across both health and the Local Authority.
- 2.3 The new strategy will run for a 3 year period. The action plan which sits alongside the strategy will be refreshed on an annual basis.

3. Content of Report

- 3.1 The previous Carers Strategy which covered adult Carers and young adult Carers, was published in 2016 following the introduction of the Care Act 2014. The Act increased the Local Authority's responsibilities to offer support to Carers to enable them to continue in their caring role. The strategy was composed by Adult Social Care and focused on the needs of adult carers. The action plans and priorities were focused on improving Carer's access to services.
- 3.2 Following the recent recommissioning of Carers Support services, awarded to Carers Bucks, the support being provided has evolved to further meet the needs of Carers in Buckinghamshire. The new model of delivery focuses of localised access, with Carers Bucks working closely with Adults and Children's services within health and social care. This all age approach, across both health and the Local Authority is reflected in the new strategy.
- 3.3 To inform the development of the strategy, the commissioning team engaged with carers in a number of forums to gather their views on what works for them, identifying the services that they contact for support and areas where they feel additional support may help. The commissioning team also engaged with a number of key stakeholders including VCS providers, public health and health colleagues to discuss their plans for supporting carers in the future.
- 3.4 The following priorities, which are set out in the strategy, were developed through this engagement as well as being informed by data from Public Health on the demographics of Buckinghamshire.
- Services and systems that work for Carers
 - Employment and Financial Wellbeing

- Supporting young Carers
- Recognising and supporting Carers in the wider community
- Building research and evidence to improve outcomes for Carers

3.5 The strategy supports the Adult Social Care Better Lives Strategy and is in line with the Children's Services approach to Early Help, promoting self-resilience and encouraging carers to take a preventative approach to taking care of their own health and wellbeing. The Carers Strategy is supported by transformation work being completed within the Council, most recently the redevelopment of the carer's assessment.

3.6 An action plan has been developed to support the delivery of the ambition set out in the strategy. This is currently being finalised through engagement with Carers to allow them to give their views on implementation.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 The key purpose of the strategy is to set out a clear vision for carers in Buckinghamshire and as such it does not have any separate resource implications or require any additional investment.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications.

6. Other Key Risks

6.1 None identified.

7. Dependencies

7.1 Central Government is approaching the end of its carers' action plan implementation period. Following this there is an expectation that further updates to the Care Act may be published increasing further the rights for carers. The Carers Strategy is a working document and would be updated to reflect any future updates or significant policy changes.

7.2 The Carers Strategy has dependencies with the Adults with Learning Disabilities Strategy and the All Age Mental Health Strategy, as well as the Adult Social Care Better Lives Strategy. Commissioners will continue to work together to ensure these documents and supporting work plans are well aligned.

8. Consultation

8.1 The Carers Strategy has been produced through engagement with key stakeholders as detailed above.

9. Communications Plan

9.1 Once approved, the strategy will be published and available to the public on the Council website.



9.2 An easy read version of the strategy will be produced to ensure the information is accessible to the widest possible audience.

10. Equalities Implications

10.1 An equalities impact screening has been completed.

Data Implications

10.2 No data is being processed.

11. Next Steps

11.1 Once approved, the strategy will be published and available to the public on the Council website.

11.2 The implementation plan is currently being finalised through engagement with Carers. Once this work is complete, there will be regular monitoring of progress against the delivery plan as part of business as usual activity.

Background Papers	None.
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