



REPORT TO THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: 19.02.19
Cabinet Member: Cllr W Gareth Roberts & Cllr Dilwyn Morgan
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Title of Item: North Wales Carers Strategy

1. Background

- 1.1 The introduction of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 has ensured more rights for carers and has simplified and consolidated the legislation, giving them equal rights, for the first time, alongside the individual they are caring for.
- 1.2 The North Wales Regional Partnership Board recognises the key role that carers play in the health and social care environment, and that they need to be appreciated for the support they provide.
- 1.3 In response to this, over the past year, the partnership has drawn up a strategy that recognises the importance of working in partnership with carers of all ages through their contact with services, and that notes the 'offer' that carers should expect.

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2 Why is a Decision needed?

- 2.1 The strategy has been created regionally, and needs to be adopted locally.

3. What is the Decision sought?

- 3.1 Members are asked to consider and accept the Carers' Strategy and ensure that suitable arrangements are in place to monitor the Council's performance against the measures within the strategy.

4. What is the background and relevant considerations?

- 4.1 The North Wales Regional Partnership Board has prioritised carers to ensure that we as a region provide them the requirements that are within the Social Services and Well-being Act (Wales) 2014. This involves the services people receive as individual carers, along with the services provided to carers by working in partnerships.

- 4.2 The Act defines carers as unpaid carers of all ages and backgrounds (including young carers) who care for a relative or friend who is sick, weak or disabled, who is unable to cope at home without the practical or emotional support of the unpaid carer.

- 4.3 The Strategy emphasises the need for partners to focus on looking through the eyes of carers in order to understand what matters to them and what would contribute to their welfare and improve their circumstances. When drawing up the strategy, partners have talked to carers about what helps them to be carers, to continue to be carers and to live life the way they want to live it.

- 4.4 The Strategy also emphasises the need for partners to work with carers when designing sustainable services that will contribute towards keeping carers healthy. These services will be an essential part of the infrastructure of health, social care and well-being.

- 4.5 The vision for carers' services in North Wales is to:

- Think about carers
- Include carers of all ages and communities in decision-making processes and planning
- Work in partnership to design and co-produce services around the carer.

- 4.6 The vision for carers' services in North Wales has led to the development and co-production of an 'Offer' for carers in North Wales, which includes service standards that partners are committing to deliver, namely:

- Promote general awareness of carers and caring to the wider population and to the relevant staff in the health and care sector.
- Think about carers when commissioning and assessing needs, with attention to the rural nature and those who are the furthest away from services for other reasons
- Include carers of all ages and communities in decision-making processes and planning
- Identify carers early on at the first point of contact with services.

5. Matters to be Noted

- 5.1 There is increasing demand to strengthen the role that individuals and the community plays, by providing a voice and control in health and care and ensuring that people of all ages and from all communities are equally involved and are an integral part of one of the Council's improvement schemes, namely 'Community Resilience'. The programme endeavours to ensure that individuals can remain and continue to live within their communities and continue to live independently within their communities. A key part of this is the function of the third sector and the huge contribution made by carers. The strategy is in-keeping with our vision that a range of preventative services are available within our communities. Committing to the strategy will enable us to better support and care for carers and, in doing so, avoid problems in the first instance.
- 5.2 The strategy responds to the inconsistency that currently exists in the 'offer' that is available to carers and is in-keeping with Gwynedd Council's vision for care and health services and that carers are an integral part of effective care, and are a full partner when planning care for individuals. Implementing the strategy would also ensure service consistency across the region which will be clearer for employees and all partners including providers and carers.
- 5.3 Main success measures have been included in the strategy which will offer us an opportunity to identify good practice and highlight any concerns and barriers. There will be a need to ensure that these measures are addressed within our relevant performance challenge meetings and also within the local Carers Partnership.

6. Any Consultations Undertaken prior to Recommending the Decision.

6.1. Views of the Statutory Officers:

i. Monitoring Officer:

As explained in the report this important Strategy has been prepared and is proposed through the North Wales Regional Partnership Board. I have no comments to add in relation to propriety.

ii. Head of Finance Department:

Confirmation was received from the author that the decision sought here would not create any additional financial commitment. Consequently, I support implementation of the Strategy.

6.2. Views of the Local Member:

6.2.1 Not a local matter.

6.3. Results of Any Consultation:

6.3.1 None to note.

Appendices:

