

<b>6 December 2011</b>		<b>ITEM 8</b>
<b>Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>THURROCK CARERS STRATEGY</b>		
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b> Cllr. Tony Fish, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Yes	
<b>Accountable Head of Service:</b> Roger Harris – Head of Commissioning		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Jo Olsson – Corporate Director of People Services		
<b>This report is</b> Public		
<b>Purpose of Report:</b> To inform Overview and Scrutiny about the emerging Carers Strategy 2012 – 2017 and changes to the delivery of Carers Support, Advice and Information Services		

Comment [s]: Please leave this for completion by Democratic Services

Comment [s]: Please state the name of the Cabinet Member and the Portfolio to which the report refers

Comment [s]: Please enter details of any Wards and Communities affected by the report. If this section is not applicable, you should enter "none".

Comment [s]: Yes/No/Not Applicable – a 'Key Decision' is generally one affecting more than 2 wards or above £50,000 expenditure – see Guideline 2.7

Comment [sj]: Please state the Head of Service's name and job title

Comment [sj]: Please state Director's name and job title

Comment [sj]: State whether your report is Public or Exempt. If Exempt (i.e. not to be given to the public or discussed in public), you should provide the reason for the this. For information, this is set out in the Constitution under Access Rule 12 – see Guideline 2.8

Comment [sj]: Briefly set out the purpose of your report

Comment [sj]: Please provide a summary of the key points in your report

Comment [s]: The recommendations should be set out in bold in the form of the decision-

Comment [s]: You should briefly explain why the report is on the agenda - See para. 5.3 and 5.4 of the report writing guidelines.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This paper seeks to advise Overview and Scrutiny about the emerging Thurrock carers Strategy 2012-2017 and changes in the delivery of Carers Support, Information and Advice Services. The strategy will be subject to change as a result of the consultation process.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**1.1 That Overview and Scrutiny note and make comments upon the contents of this report.**

**2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

**2.1** The draft Carers Strategy 2012 – 17 has been developed by partners in response to the challenges facing Thurrock;

- Carers spend a significant proportion of their life providing unpaid support to a relative, partner, friend or neighbour who is ill, frail, elderly, disabled or has mental health or substance misuse problems

- The scale and degree of caring they provide means that it would be impossible to replace all unpaid care with formal care services
- Caring can be a rewarding experience yet many face isolation, poverty, discrimination, ill-health, frustration and resentment as a result of their caring role
- Carers should be recognised for the valuable contribution they make and should be supported in their caring roles, in their health and well-being and in their wider aspirations

**3. ISSUES AND/OR OPTIONS:**

3.1 It is estimated that there are approximately 15,000 carers in Thurrock and yet there are currently only around 500 known to the Council (just 3.5% of the local carer population) and not all of these are receiving services. With a growing and ageing population, there is likely to be an increase in the demands upon carers who are already providing the bulk of care and are themselves becoming increasingly elderly.

It is clear that Thurrock Council will need to provide smarter and more focussed targeting of limited resources if it is to successfully support its care population in the future.

3.2 In response to these challenges, Adult Social Care, Children Education and Families, NHS South West Essex, South Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SEPT), Third Sector organisations and local carers have worked together to develop a draft Thurrock Carers Strategy that can respond to the increased need for services within financial constraints.

3.3 This strategy is currently in a draft format and will be subject to a formal public consultation period.

3.4 The strategy broadly follows the themes of the National Carers Strategy:

Carer Recognition, Assessment and Support

We want to have a clear and strong carer focus and have carer identification systems that are robust and allow for early intervention.

Information and Communication

We want to identify more carers and signpost carers to good quality information and support at the time that it is needed

Health and Well-Being

We want to help maintain the emotional and physical health and well-being of carers and their families

A Life of Your Own

We will support carers to have a life of their own through access to work and financial security, education and leisure

Comment [s]: Other headings may be appropriate. The report should outline the reasoning that leads to its recommendations and **must** include:

1. a brief summary of options considered;
2. consultation outcomes
3. a risk assessment.
4. Whether the responsible cabinet members have been consulted/contributed to the report (NB professional and political advice must be clearly distinguished)

- See para.5.5 of the report writing guidelines.

Inter-Agency Working

We will promote and participate in joint working between social care, housing, health, carers and Third Sector groups and any other stakeholders who have an impact upon carer's services in Thurrock. We will work closely with local GP's and the emerging Clinical Commissioning Groups to promote awareness of carers and their needs and to ensure that clinical commissioning decisions are taken with the requirements of carers in mind.

Partners in Care

We will ensure all services and service developments are carer-led and, where possible, are in line with what carers say they want and need.

Management Information Systems

The collection, recording and reporting of carer information will be improved in order that we may produce evidence of services provided and outcomes achieved and identify gaps in services and areas for development.

Young Carers

Children and young people will be protected from inappropriate caring and have the support they need to learn, develop and thrive, to enjoy positive childhoods and to achieve against the 'Every Child Matters' outcomes.

Equality

We will provide equitable services all carers can access. We will develop ways to find Thurrock's 'hidden' carers and explore culturally sensitive ways of enabling and encouraging people to access services.

- 3.5 Given that Thurrock is engaging with relatively few carers, it is recognised by all partners that the Support, Advice and Information element of the Carers Centre Service is not working effectively. The July 2011 Cabinet gave approval to enter into a tender process seeking an independent partner to deliver improvements in this area. This was following a 2011/12 Budget Consultation Exercise which determined that a third party partner should be identified through a procurement exercise.

**4. CONSULTATION (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

- 4.1 The Carers Strategy will enter into a formal 3 month consultation period commencing in February 2012. Its development has been informed by a working group of professional and carer representatives.

The formal consultation will include, (but not be limited to), engagement via; face to face meetings, public events, attendance at carers events and web based feedback mechanisms.

**5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT**

**Comment [j]:** This should include any consultation with Ward Members and Shadow Portfolio Holders, as well as any public or statutory consultation

**Comment [a]:** Please refer to Section 5.7 of the Report Writing Guidelines

5.1 The Carers Strategy has the potential to impact on all Corporate Priorities but specifically Providing High Quality and Accessible Public Services.

**6. IMPLICATIONS**

**6.1 Financial**

Not applicable

**6.2 Legal**

Not applicable

**6.3 Diversity and Equality**

Not applicable

**6.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental**

We have given due regard to the Section 17 duty and the implications considered as part of section 3.4

**7. CONCLUSION**

7.1 As stated previously, the Carers Strategy is in a draft format and is subject to change as a result of the consultation process.

7.2 A procurement process to appoint an independent organisation to provide a Carers Support, Information and Advice Service will commence in the New Year

**BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT:**

- Draft Thurrock Carers Strategy 2012-2017

**APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:**

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**Comment [sj]:** This section should always be completed – if they are dealt with fully in another part of the report, they also need a brief cross reference here. The names and job titles of the officers providing the implications should be provided in full – see Guideline 6.1 and please note Democratic Services Deadlines and ensure that officers providing implications are given 5 clear working days to work on the report. Authors can write implications but they must be signed off by the appropriate officers

**Comment [sj]:** See Guideline 6.2

**Comment [sj]:** See Guideline 6.3

**Comment [sj]:** See Guideline 6.4

**Comment [sj]:** This should inform the recommendations in the report

**Comment [sj]:** See Guideline 8. If any Papers are to be placed in the Members room that relate to this report, you should also list them here

**Comment [sj]:** List the Appendices referred to in the Report

**Comment [sj]:** Insert the full contact details of the author of the report

