

From: Clair Bell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health
Richard Smith, Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health

To: Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee – 31 March 2022

Subject: **KENT ADULT CARERS STRATEGY 2022 TO 2027**

Decision Number: 22/00015

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of report: Making a Difference Every Day Directorate Management Team – 9 February 2022

Future Pathway of report: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: All

Summary: This report informs Members of the outcome of the consultation on the draft 'Kent Adult Carers Strategy 2022 to 2027'. The strategy has been updated to reflect the outcome of the consultation.

Recommendations: The Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** and **ENDORSE** or make **RECOMMENDATIONS** to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health on the proposed decision (attached as Appendix 1) to:

- a) **ADOPT** the Kent Adult Carers Strategy 2022 to 2027;
- b) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health to refresh and/or make revisions as appropriate during the lifetime of the strategy; and
- c) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health to take relevant actions, including but not limited to finalising the terms of and entering into required contract or other legal agreements, as necessary to implement the objectives of the Kent Adult Carers Strategy.

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health confirmed the start of the pre-consultation engagement events about the development of the draft Carers Strategy, at the Cabinet Committee meeting held on 1 December 2021.
- 1.2 Plans for the public consultation on the draft Carers Strategy was reported at the Cabinet Committee meeting held on 18 January 2022.

- 1.3 The existing financial challenges facing the council and the huge social, economic, and public service delivery effect of the Covid-19 pandemic, provide the background to the development of the draft Carers Strategy. The proposed Carers Strategy has been developed in line with the council's corporate objectives and informed by the principles of the Care Act 2014, in so far as they relate to Kent County Council's adult social care responsibilities.
- 1.4 The draft Carers Strategy does not sit on its own, it is closely aligned with the overarching 'Making a difference every day: our strategy for Adult Social Care, 2022 to 2027'. Both directorate strategies provide the platform for Adult Social Care and Health's contribution towards meeting the objectives of KCC's Interim Strategic Plan and the next Strategic Statement. The information in the draft Carers Strategy has also been influenced by the 'People at the Heart of Care, White Paper 2021'. It is important to note that, in working to deliver change for carers, it will be necessary to maintain the strong and meaningful connection with other relevant local strategies such as the Young Carers Strategy, the Autism and Learning Disability Strategy and the Dementia Strategy that cover the county.
- 1.5 The draft 'Kent Adult Carers Strategy 2022 to 2027 (attached as Appendix A), has been developed to set out the vision and direction for, and help to enable the delivery of, carers support services over the next five years in Kent.
- 1.6 Adult Social Care and Health Directorate activities take place in a changing world, where Carers express ever-changing expectations in terms of access to quality of information, single point of access, quality, and continuity of services and about the outcomes that matter to them. The draft Carers Strategy is intended to be a high-level plan that unites the approach across our workforce to deliver more person-centred, flexible, and responsive support services.

2. Consultation process and outcome

- 2.1 The draft Carers Strategy has been subject to public consultation. It has been developed to explain in plain English, and in an engaging way, the overall draft vision, the three central principles (supporting you to be you, providing the best support possible and positive outcomes) and new ways of working to support carers, which keeps the person at the heart of everything we do and will help us continuously improve the services we offer. Together, these describe our 'Making a Difference Every Day' approach to supporting carers to achieve the outcomes they see as most important. The consultation on the strategy opened on 12 January 2022 and it closed on 22 February 2022.
- 2.2 The consultation process identified the main stakeholders with interest in the Carers Strategy, and this included carers, people we support, Kent County Council (KCC) staff, KCC Members, carers and voluntary sector organisations, Healthwatch, NHS trusts, Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group, and social care providers, as well as the public. Full details of the consultation Process and responses are included in the Kent Adult Carers Strategy Engagement and Consultation Outcome Report (Appendix B and Appendix B1).

- 2.3 In the pre-consultation and engagement period, we involved several groups; carers, people we support, members of the public, our staff, county councillors, and partners to co-produce this strategy. As a result, the draft Carers Strategy has been influenced by the different lived experience of people in its development even before going out to consult. Both the learned experiences of our staff, and the lived experiences of carers, the people we support, and partner organisations have been discussed and have shaped the content of the document. It should be noted that principles of the 'Making a Difference Every Day – our strategy for Adult Social Care, 2022 to 2027', has also shaped the draft Carers Strategy and how it will be delivered.
- 2.4 It is important to note that the revised draft Carers Strategy addresses all the main feedback from the consultation responses. The revised Carers Strategy emphasises the needs of different, the need for clarity about how the strategy will be implemented in compliance with KCC's duties as a council with adult social care responsibilities. Implementing the strategy will contribute to achieving the priorities of Members and in line with the broad direction of Government policy regarding carers.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The implementation of the draft Carers Strategy will be taken forward based on the budget allocation to the Adult Social Care and Health Directorate. Service delivery arising from this strategy for future years will be determined by the approved budget and the Medium Term and Financial Plan (MTFP) requirements.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The implementation of the draft Carers Strategy will be in line with Kent County Council's adult social care responsibilities, as set out in the relevant legislation (as amended) such as the Care Act 2014, the Mental Capacity Act 2005, and the Mental Health Act 1983.

5. Equalities implications

- 5.1 As part of the planning process for the Carers Strategy development work, an initial equalities impact assessment was developed. This has subsequently been updated to reflect relevant comments put forward during the consultation exercise. The revised Equality Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix C.
- 5.2 Comments were made as part of the response to the consultation which have implications for practice and delivery of carers services. It is intended that these comments would be taken on board and acted on in the development of the related implementation plan.

6. Data Protection implications

- 6.1 The development of the strategy does not require a Data Protection Impact Assessment to be completed.

7. Conclusion and next steps

- 7.1 There has been a need for a new Kent Adult Carers Strategy to be developed given that the existing 'Kent Adult Carers Strategy, 2019' is out of date and needed to be refreshed in line with the overarching Adult Social Care Strategy.
- 7.2 The draft 'Kent Adult Carers Strategy 2022 to 2027', has been developed to set out the vision and direction for, and help to enable the delivery of, carers support services over the next five years in Kent.
- 7.3 A formal launch of the adopted 'Making a difference every day: our strategy for Adult Social Care, 2022 to 2027 and the 'Kent Adult Carers Strategy' is planned. The delivery plans and activities which have been started to support the implementation of the ambitions and the objectives in the strategies will be monitored, and their progress measured against the high-level outcomes described in both strategies. Reporting on progress towards the goals of the strategies will form part of the routine cycle of reporting to Members.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 Recommendations: The Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** and **ENDORSE** or make **RECOMMENDATIONS** to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health on the proposed decision (attached as Appendix 1) to:
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 - b) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health to refresh and/or make revisions as appropriate during the lifetime of the strategy; and
 - c) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health to take relevant actions, including but not limited to finalising the terms of and entering into required contract or other legal agreements, as necessary to implement the objectives of the Kent Adult Carers Strategy.

9. Background Documents

None

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