

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

CARERS STRATEGY 2022-2026

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To seek agreement to publish an update on the delivery and key achievements of the North Lincolnshire Carers Strategy 2022-2026 in relation to its four key priorities since in launch in April 2022.
- 1.2 To advise on progress made against the Carers Strategy since its launch in April 2022.
- 1.3 To give oversight of the delivery plan to support the further implementation of the Carers Strategy in 2023-2024.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The All-Age Carers Strategy was coproduced with carers and key stakeholders to develop a vision and four key priorities for carers in North Lincolnshire. To ensure the voice of carers was heard, engagement took place with a wide range of carers and through discussions with our voice groups including the Carers Advisory Partnership, the Parent Forum and the Carers Support Service.
- 2.2 The 2022-2026 strategy outlines our aims and seeks to give clarity to our actions through the delivery plan which identifies key workstreams/themes and actions which will be taken forward by North Lincolnshire Council as place leader and with partners including the Integrated Care Board (ICB), North Lincolnshire and Goole Hospital Trust (NLaG) and Ongo, the Colleges and Citizen's Advice Bureau.
- 2.3 The strategies key priorities are:
 - Early identification and carer recognition
 - Support carers to stay healthy (including physical & emotional health)
 - Transform and improve digital solutions
 - Influence change and innovation through Carers voice and partnership working.

- 2.4 In its first year, there has been significant progress in developing initiatives that support the delivery of the four key priorities. This includes;
- 2.5 **Development of a Practitioners Guide to Supporting Carers**
North Lincolnshire Council has developed a new Practitioners Guide to support GP surgeries in pro-actively identifying and recognising carers. This piece of work was undertaken in collaboration with NHS England and co-produced with carers and partners to develop a bespoke tool which will be used in all GP surgeries. A soft launch of the Guide was introduced at the Carers Celebration Event in June 2023, with wider roll out taking place in Autumn.
- 2.6 **Identification and Recognition of Carers in Secondary Care**
NLaG have developed Carers Strategy based on recommendations in the NICE guidance to support carers at Scunthorpe General Hospital. A key piece of work to come from the strategy include the Carers Ward Mission Statement, which sets out the expectations on staff in recognising and working alongside carers and the Carers lanyard which was launched during Carers Week – June 2023 at the hospital. This initiative will support in creating a carer friendly culture which readily identifies and recognises carers as respected partners in care.
- 2.7 **Caring Employers North Lincolnshire Council**, is the initial organisation to implement changes in practice to better support employed carers; this includes the re-establishment of the Be Yourself at Work group for carers, giving carers the ability to self-identify through our HR portal and the recent sign off of the Carers Support Plan, which is designed to promote a carer friendly culture and enable the consideration of planning and reasonable adjustments to better support carers in balancing caring and working.
- 2.8 **The North Lincolnshire Carer Campaign**
The Council and Carers Support Service have instigated an awareness raising campaign to improve and support identification of Carers this has included information on the digital boards, social media and on parking tickets to promotion identification and signpost carers to the Carers Support Service. Training has also been rolled out to partner organisations to those in key customer facing roles.
- 2.9 **Carers Voice**
In the last 12 months, work has been undertaken to strengthen the carers voice, this has included the development of new peer support groups for carers, the development of a carer voice group; all of which will feed into the refreshed Carers In Partnership (CIP, formerly CAP) group, to ensure carers are driving change.
- 2.10 There are further ambitions for the next 12 months, particularly in relation to the previous projects highlighted around embedding and widening initiatives for maximum impact.

2.11 Some further key projects include;

- The implementation of a Carers Registration card to support in identification, recognition of carers and the opportunity to access additional carer specific benefits.
- Bookmark promotions through community hubs/ libraries to support identification.
- A young adult carers project which supports in improving access to education, employment, and training.
- The roll out of the Young Carers in Schools Award.
- Exploration of the support given to carers supporting those with addiction issues.
- Delivery of health awareness sessions for carers.

2.12 Since its launch and implementation the Carer's Strategy has delivered significant changes to support and improve the wellbeing of Carers in North Lincolnshire in delivering actions to support the four key priorities. The Carer Strategy Partnership recognises the impetus gained so far and will harness the momentum to ensure that the reach of identification, recognition, and support for carers is the responsibility of all our partners and complements support delivered through the Council in accordance with our statutory obligations.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION – KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

3.1 Option 1 – Publish the Strategy Delivery Plan, which incorporates an overview of Year One progress and a plan for future years.

3.2 Option 2 – Do not publish the Delivery Plan.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 In publishing the up-to-date delivery plan carers can identify what improvements have happened in relation to support for carers and their wellbeing across North Lincolnshire.

4.2 Through publishing the delivery plan, we are acknowledging partner organisations who are recognised for their contributions and the Council is celebrating progress towards achieving the priorities.

4.3 If we did not publish the up-to-date delivery plan, the contributions and progress made by partners to delivering the strategy would not be recognised. Carers would not have an overview of initiatives developed for carers and there would be less opportunity for the carers voice to enhance services going forward.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

- 5.1 There are no financial or other resource implications.
6. **OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**
- 6.1 The strategy and delivery plan identifies and seeks to ensure equality of access and experience by those who could be adversely impacted due to a protected characteristic. Where this is acknowledged the delivery seeks to mitigate this through targeting specific groups of carers.
- There are no carbon emission and/or environmental implications and significant risks that have been identified arising from implementation of the recommendation and any mitigation measures that could be applied.
7. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**
- 7.1 An IIA has been undertaken as part of the strategy and delivery plan development, through targeting specific cohorts of carers, partners have reduced any negative impact in terms of access to or experience of initiatives.
8. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**
- 8.1 Extensive consultation has taken place to develop the initial Carers Strategy. All ongoing initiatives are coproduced through the strategy partnership group which incorporates carers as experts by experience. The Carers In Partnership group, Parents Forum and the Carer Voice group also feed into work to ensure projects are reflective of carer need in North Lincolnshire.
9. **RECOMMENDATIONS**
- 9.1 To publish an update on the delivery and key achievements of the North Lincolnshire Carers Strategy 2022-2026 in relation to its four key priorities since in launch in April 2022.

DIRECTOR OF Adults and Health

Church Square House
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
DN15 6NL

Author: Teresa Bainbridge - Principal Officer Carers, and Haydee Barrett –
Commissioning Officer.
Date: 13th July 2023

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report (links below) –
[*Strategy IIR Meeting*](#)
[*Carers Strategy Delivery Plan 2022-2026*](#)