

## **CABINET– 16 JULY 2013**

### **OXFORDSHIRE CARERS STRATEGY 2013-2016**

#### **Report by Director of Social and Community Services**

#### **Introduction**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval for the Oxfordshire Carers Strategy 2013-2016, which has been developed jointly by the County Council and the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group. This strategy replaces the previous Oxfordshire Carers' Strategy 2009-2012.
2. The Council is committed to supporting family carers. Informal carers provide the back bone of social care and we want to work in partnership with carers to support them in their caring role. This Carers Strategy updates our approach to supporting carers. It has been developed with the full involvement of carers in Oxfordshire. The strategy covers all ages and applies equally to older carers, parents of disabled children and young carers.
3. We have significantly increased the numbers of carers identified and extended our range of support by moving away from a small number of building based services to a network of services provided in and by the community. To show our commitment we are maintaining our investment in carers support, together with the Clinical Commissioning Group.

#### **Background**

4. Carers are vital to the support of vulnerable children and adults across all of Oxfordshire's population and to the ability of its communities and its services to sustain them. Approximately 61,500 Oxfordshire residents have identified themselves as a carer for a relative, friend or neighbour through the 2011 National Census. It is estimated that 3 out of every 5 people in the UK will take on the role of carer for someone they know at some point in their lifetime.
5. During 2012 carers took part in the Department of Health National Carers Survey. A sample group were surveyed and in Oxfordshire 607 people responded. This group told us that:
  - 62% of carers are aged over 65
  - 11% of these are over 85
  - 44% provide care for more than 100 hours per week
  - 90% provide practical help
  - 80% provide administrative support
  - 69% provide personal care
  - 62% provide physical help

6. It is likely that the number of people who will need to provide care to a relative, neighbour or friend will increase significantly. People who have complex health conditions are now living for longer, and the number of people who have chronic health conditions is known to be increasing. At the same time life expectancy in the general population is increasing, with the number of people over 65 projected to increase from 17% of the total population in 2010 to 23% by 2035. The number of people aged over 85 has doubled in the period 1983-2010 and is expected to form 5% of the total population by 2035.
7. With the projected increase in the numbers of people likely to require care and support, it is important that the contribution of carers is both recognised and reinforced. Carer breakdown will lead to increased demands upon statutory services whilst at the same time diminishing the lives of individuals, families and communities.
8. Support for carers is therefore a vital part of our overall strategy to support vulnerable people in Oxfordshire. Most people would prefer to live in their own home throughout their life, or for as long as is possible. If a move into an institutional care setting is required this should be as a response to the needs of the cared for person, not because of the breakdown of a carer's health or a breakdown of their willingness or ability to continue.
9. The County Council has promoted services to support carers for many years. In 2010 these services were subject to a review and services for carers were further developed to increase the number of carers being supported. The County Council continues to work with carers and partnership agencies to develop support services for carers which are relevant to their needs and fit for purpose.
10. Key achievements over the last year have been:
  - An increase in the number of carers who have been identified. In 2011/12 5,562 carers were assessed in Oxfordshire, this increased to 9,748 in 2011/12 and to 14,804 in 2012/13.
  - An increase in the number of carers who have had a direct payment to meet their needs directly from their GP - 881 in 2012/13 and 408 so far this year.
  - Increased involvement of carers in the development and delivery of strategies and services.
  - Maintaining the high level of investment for carers services.
  - Encouraging Oxfordshire employers to support carers.

### **Oxfordshire Carers' Strategy 2013-2016**

11. The Oxfordshire Carers' Strategy has been developed jointly by the County Council and Clinical Commissioning Group. This included a period of consultation (November 2012 - March 2013), during which carers, service users and partner organisations were invited to contribute to the updating of the Strategy.

12. The renewed Strategy also takes into account organisational changes within the NHS and also new national guidance and initiatives relating to carer support which have been introduced since 2009.
13. 7 strategic priorities for the renewed Strategy were identified by carers, health and social care professionals and other stakeholders, and were supported by the outcomes of the consultation. They therefore form the basis of the Oxfordshire Carers' Strategy 2013-2016 and will inform the planning and commissioning of support for all carers across social and health care services.
14. These priorities are:
  - Improving carers' experiences of health and social care services
  - Giving carers effective support and opportunities for a break
  - Increased carer identification
  - Improving the health and wellbeing of carers
  - Supporting carers to fulfil their education, employment and training potential
  - Supporting carers through periods of change
  - Supporting those carers who have complex situations when they need more support
15. The following outcomes are expected as a result of delivering this Strategy:
  - Partnership working with carers will contribute to the success of good care delivery across the county
  - Carers will be supported to maintain their health and wellbeing alongside that of the person they care for
  - Carers will be able to have time for themselves and breaks from being a carer
  - Carers will be supported to remain in employment or education if this is their choice or need
  - Carers will be supported through change and complex situations
  - Carers will be supported to reduce the likelihood of crisis situations occurring and the consequent need for emergency admissions to health or care services
  - Oxfordshire communities and Oxfordshire services will be able to develop increased resilience in the face of the population changes being faced within the county
16. The Oxfordshire Carers Strategy 2013-2016 will be accompanied by an Implementation Plan which details the actions and performance measures to deliver the strategy. A copy of this implementation plan is available in the Member's Resource Room.
17. As support for carers is a cross-cutting issue, this plan will be monitored through the Joint Management Groups that oversee the pooled budgets for older people, mental health, learning disability and physical disability.

## Risks

19. The main risk associated with this strategy is that it does not meet the needs of the growing number of carers in Oxfordshire. This will be mitigated and reviewed by regular progress reports to the Joint Management Groups and the Carers Strategy Steering Group.

## Financial and Staff Implications

20. The funding available to support the delivery of the strategy for 2013/14 is shown below.

Service Area	Funding 2013/14
Respite and short breaks services	£6,282,073
Carers Support Information Advice & Guidance	£1,050,130
Support for Young Carers	£ 398,000
Support for Carers for people who have Dementia	£242,734
Emergency Support for Carers	£353,601
<b>Total</b>	<b>£8,326,538</b>

21. The majority of this funding sits within the pooled budgets as agreed jointly by the County Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group each year, and is monitored through the Joint Management Groups.
22. There are no direct staffing implications as a result of this strategy.

## Equalities Implications

23. In line with the Council's Equality Policy 2012-2016 and the requirements of The Equality Act 2010, a Service and Community Impact Assessment has been completed to consider the implications of the Carers Strategy.
24. The Strategy is not considered likely to have any significant negative impacts on people who share protected characteristics. Many of the priorities and actions in the strategy are specifically targeted at improving outcomes for more vulnerable people.
25. Similarly, individual impact assessments are and will be completed for all commissioning activity, service changes and contracts awarded linked to the development and delivery of the strategy. Where appropriate, the outcomes of these assessments are and will be reported to Cabinet to inform decision-making on new policies, contracts and service changes.
26. A copy of the Service and Community Impact Assessment is available in the Member's Resource Room.

## RECOMMENDATION

**27. The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to Approve the Oxfordshire Carers' Strategy 2013- 2016**

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Background papers: Nil

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