

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Report subject	BCP Carers Strategy
Meeting date	26 September 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>The BCP Carers Strategy (2022-2027) sets out 5 key strategic priorities to support carers and recognise the valuable contribution they make to our community. At least 39,000 people in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole are carers and they play a vital role in sustaining our health and social care system by enabling the people they care for to live safely in their own homes for longer.</p> <p>The strategy has been shaped by the views and experiences of local carers and aims to support them to look after their own health and wellbeing, to enable them to stay in their caring roles and prevent, reduce, or delay the need for health and care services for the people they care for.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>Committee supports the recommendation to cabinet to approve the BCP Carers Strategy, contained in Appendix 1 to this Report</p>
Reason for recommendations	<p>The Strategy:</p> <p>(i) Delivers support to carers to allow them to sustain their caring role and enable people to live safely in their own homes for longer, delaying, reducing, or preventing the need for health and social care services;</p> <p>ii) Meets the requirements of the Care Act (2014); and</p> <p>ii) Supports the priorities of the Corporate Strategy and Adult Social Care Strategy</p>

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Karen Rampton – Portfolio Holder for People and Homes
Corporate Director	Phil Hornsby, Director of Commissioning for People David Vitty, Director of Adult Social Services
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Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Recommendation

Background

1. A carer is anyone who looks after a family member, partner or friend who needs help because of their illness, frailty, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction and cannot cope without their support. Whilst the care they give is unpaid, they may still be in receipt of Carers Allowance.
2. For the purpose of this strategy the term ‘carer’ does not include individuals employed in paid care work, (e.g., commissioned care, via a Direct Payment, or as part of work with a voluntary sector organisation). Under the Care Act 2014, s.10 (9) An adult is not to be regarded as a carer if the adult provides or intends to provide care
 - a. under or by virtue of a contract, or
 - b. as voluntary work
3. Research commissioned by Carers UK estimates that 10.58 million adults in the UK are carers, which equates to 1 in 5 people. Since October 2020, there has been a 42% increase in carers providing more than 20 hours of care per week. The value of their care is significant, with carers saving the economy £132 billion per year, which is an average of £19,336 per carer.
4. At least 11% of people in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole are unpaid carers. Although it is a challenge to identify the true number of carers, the increasing membership of the BCP carer support service (CRISP – Carers Resource, Information and Support Programme), currently standing at 5,665 carers, suggests that they remain under-represented.
5. In December 2021, a survey was developed in collaboration with carers, Members of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Adult Social Care professionals, and CRISP. The aim of the survey was to find out how easy carers found it to access support and what would help them the most in their caring role.
6. 2804 online survey links and 2447 paper copies were sent to carers registered with CRISP. The survey was also distributed through Adult Social Care networks to partners, commissioned services and voluntary agencies that work with carers who support people residing in the BCP Council area.

7. To ensure the survey reached carers not registered with CRISP, organisations and agencies of underrepresented groups were informed of the survey and review. Both online and paper versions were sent to these groups along with a cover letter, for them to distribute to carers.
8. In total, 742 carers responded to the survey, 331 were digital responses, and 411 were paper responses.
9. As part of the survey, carers were asked if they wanted to participate in focus groups to share their feedback further and contribute to the carers services review; 179 carers volunteered.
10. In total, 30 focus groups were held with carers and 10 focus groups were held with Adult Social Care professionals and external organisations. Feedback was also obtained from carer representatives and practitioners in various forums that take place locally, including the Pan Dorset Carers Steering Group, Dorset Carers Partnership Group, BCP Carers Reference Group, Carers Action Group and Carers Operational Group.
11. Focus groups were facilitated via several methods, including group video conferencing, 1-1 video conferencing, 1-1 telephone calls, home visits, face to face workshops and email.
12. The feedback collated from the carers services review has informed the 5 key strategic priorities of this strategy. The priorities have also been supported by the BCP Carers Reference Group, The Pan Dorset Carers Steering Group, the Dorset Carers Partnership Group, the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the We Care Campaign
13. The 5 key strategic priorities for the BCP Carers Strategy are:

Priority 1: Identification and Recognition

- Identify carers as early as possible in their caring journey
- Support carers to self-identify
- Recognise the full diversity of carers
- Recognise the contribution that carers make to society
- Involve carers in planning, commissioning decisions and service design

Priority 2: Information and Advice

- Ensure information and advice is accessible to all carers
- Involve carers in the planning and development of information and advice
- Invest in training for carers and professionals

Priority 3: Supporting Carers Physical, Mental and Emotional Wellbeing

- Enable carers to take a break from their caring role
- Support carers to look after their own physical and mental health

Priority 4: A Life Alongside Caring

- Enable carers to have time for themselves
- Enable carers to have access to education and employment

- Support carers to access activities they enjoy

Priority 5: Collaborative Working Across Dorset

- Work with partners to ensure equity of service across Dorset
- Engage with all organisations across Dorset that support carers to promote, value and recognise carers services

14. The strategy identifies the areas where success will be measured and once the strategy has been approved, a detailed delivery plan will set out smart objectives and how these will be measured and achieved year by year.

15. The strategy will be taken to Cabinet on 28th September 2022.

Summary of financial implications

16. The Better Care Fund is providing £1.23 million for carers for 2022/23, and the delivery against the priorities identified in the carers strategy will be within this financial envelope.

17. Staff capacity for the BCP carers support service will need to be increased to carry out the recommend priorities of the strategy. This will require a shift of funding within the Better Care Fund, with some of the funds allocated for residential respite being moved into the staffing budget. Modelling will need to take place to understand the likely impact on respite provision and how this is offered in the future to best meet the needs of carers and those they care for.

Summary of legal implications

18. The Care Act 2014 makes provision for the responsibility and duty on a local authority to assess a carer's need for support, to include any possible future support, what those needs may be and how those identified needs will be met having been evaluated and if they meet the eligibility criteria.

19. The strategy aims to support and encompass the statutory duties placed on the local authority to carers living in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.

Summary of human resources implications

20. Additional staff capacity will be needed for the BCP carer support service, with new roles being developed and recruited to carry out the recommended priorities of the strategy.

Summary of sustainability impact

21. A decision impact assessment report has been produced and is showing a positive impact on:

- a. Communities and culture
- b. Economy
- c. Health and Wellbeing
- d. Learning and Skills
- e. Sustainable Procurement

f. Transport and accessibility

22. The carbon footprint of the BCP Carers Strategy is classified as low

Summary of public health implications

23. Approving the BCP Carers Strategy will improve the health and wellbeing of carers as one of the key strategic priorities is to support carers physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing. It would also reduce local health inequalities by promoting collaborative working across Dorset to ensure equity of service.

Summary of equality implications

24. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening tool has been completed and reviewed by the EIA Panel. The panel gave a green rating and praised the level of engagement that had been carried out for the BCP Carers Strategy. A copy is contained in appendix 2 to this report.

25. The priorities of the BCP Carers Strategy will have positive equality implications as they will improve the accessibility of carers services and allow more carers with protected characteristics to have access to information, advice and support that is tailored to their needs.

Summary of risk assessment

26. As the priorities of the strategy were developed through engagement with carers, if these are not supported there is a risk of reputational damage to BCP Council for not taking into account the views of the people the strategy has been written for.

27. If the Better Care Funding for carers is reduced or withdrawn in future, the priorities of the strategy would need to be reviewed to ensure any available funding is targeted to areas where it has the greatest impact.

28. If staffing levels for the BCP carer support service are not increased, the recommended priorities of the strategy will be harder to achieve, with carers receiving less support and being more likely to require formal health and social care services for the person they care for.

Background papers

29. Published Works:

Make Caring Visible, Valued and Supported – Carers Week 2022 Report, Carers UK (2022) Available at: www.carers-week-2022-make-caring-visible-valued-and-supported-report_final.pdf

Unseen and undervalued – the value of unpaid carers support during the pandemic, Carer UK (2020) Available at: www.carersuk.org/images/News_and_campaigns/Unseen_and_undervalued.pdf

Appendices

1. BCP Carers Strategy

2. EIA Screening Tool for the BCP Carers Strategy