

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**ADULT SERVICES
CABINET MEMBER**

DEVELOPMENT OF A CARERS STRATEGY FOR NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Cabinet Member of the development of a Carers Strategy in North Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 To seek approval from the Cabinet Member for the approach being taken to develop the strategy.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 In June 2008, the Government launched its national strategy for carers: "Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities: a caring system on your side; a life of your own." It set out its ten year vision and by 2018 carers will be universally recognised and valued as being fundamental to strong families and stable communities. Support will be tailored to meet individuals' needs, enabling carers to maintain a balance between their caring responsibilities and a life outside caring, whilst enabling the person they support to be a full and equal citizen.
- 2.2 The strategy included a number of short term (over the next three years) and longer-term priorities, which will ensure that the vision is achieved by 2018. Included in the strategy is the statement that "this transformational New Deal for Carers will depend on our commitment and the vision of statutory, third sector and private sector agencies. In all cases they will need to engage with individual carers, the people they support and carers' networks in a new way – which recognises that it is carers who are best placed to articulate their own aspirations as well as the emotional and practical realities of their caring experiences".
- 2.3 Over the next ten years, it is carers who will judge the effectiveness of the strategy. It is they who know whether they feel valued, respected and supported to have the best possible quality of life, often in difficult circumstances.
- 2.4 In North Lincolnshire we are using this strategy to form the basis for a ten-year strategy for carers in this area. Extensive consultation is being

undertaken which will conclude initially in April 2009. This consultation includes:

- ❑ Visits to every known carer group to meet carers, and hear their views about current provision and how all agencies can work together better to deliver the national strategy locally
- ❑ The formation of a Carers Advisory Group comprising carers who are supporting people with a range of disabilities and illnesses who have looked at particular topics in great detail e.g. information, carer breaks, carers as expert partners, a life of their own and governance arrangements. These views have been collated by the Carers Lead and are forming the Carers Strategy.
- ❑ In-depth interviews with over 20 carers to understand their caring histories and include them in the strategy
- ❑ A meeting for carers champions within Social Services who are looking at how the support we provide for carers can be improved. These views are also being used to form the strategy.
- ❑ Discussions with NHS partners, third sector providers and private organisations to consider their role in supporting carers.

2.5 The first draft of the Strategy will be produced for 3 April after which it will go through the normal democratic processes.

2.6 The consultation to date has provided many carers with the opportunity to have their voices listened to and to be part of the development of the strategy.

3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

3.1 Option 1 – That the Cabinet Member approves the approach being taken to develop the carer's strategy.

3.2 Option 2 – That the Cabinet Member does not approve the approach being taken to develop the carer's strategy.

4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 Should the Cabinet Member approve the approach suggested in Option 2 above, the North Lincolnshire Carer's Strategy will be presented to Cabinet in May or June 2009 for approval.

4.2 If the Cabinet Member does not approve the approach, further work will be undertaken which will be subject to a further cabinet member report.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications of this report. However, North Lincolnshire Council receives a Carers Grant (approximately £600,000), which is now part of the Area Based Grant. The strategy being developed will influence how this grant is used in the future.

5.2 Staffing Implications

There are no staffing implications as a result of this report.

5.3 Property Implications

None.

5.4 IT Implications

None.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

There are no implications.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

7.1 This is an ongoing consultation process, which has involved many carers. They will continue to be involved in monitoring the strategy as part of the governance arrangements.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Cabinet Member is asked to approve the approach taken to develop a Carers Strategy for North Lincolnshire.

SERVICE DIRECTOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report

Cabinet Member report: Fresh Start Sustainability – 22 April

“Carers at the heart of 21st Century Families & Communities: a caring system on your side, a life of your own” can be found at

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_085345