

PUBLIC

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER – ADULT CARE** held on 16 April 2020 at County Hall, Matlock.

**PRESENT**

Councillor J Wharmby (in the Chair)

Also in attendance was Councillor S Swann.

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor C Dale.

**10/20** **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

**11/20** **DERBYSHIRE CARERS STRATEGY 2020 – 2025 -**

According to the 2011 Census, there were around 93,000 carers in Derbyshire. Out of the top 10 districts nationally, with the highest percentage of unpaid carers, 3 districts fall within Derbyshire. It is estimated that unpaid carers deliver over 2.6m hours of care a week in Derbyshire, saving the local economy an estimated £988 every year.

Evidence from Carers UK suggests that not only are the number of carers increasing, but that carers are taking on greater responsibility for more intensive levels of care. The act of caring is known to impact upon carers' physical, mental and economic health and wellbeing, resulting in carers who are more likely to:

- have a long-term physical or mental health condition
- feel isolated or experience reduced social contact
- be concerned about finances
- have insufficient sleep and time for themselves

Nationally and locally, the increase in both life expectancy and the prevalence of caring creates the need for more effective support and service options. It is widely recognised that good support for carers benefits not only carers, by maintaining and promoting their health and well-being, but also the health and well-being of the person they care for. Supporting carers to continue caring is as fundamental to supporting strong families and communities as it is to the sustainability of the health and social care system. Supporting carers to continue caring supports economic and effective planning as well as morally, being the right thing to do.

There have been many improvements over the last three years in the way carers are supported in Derbyshire, but challenges remain. The Council and

Derby and Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group have therefore developed and agreed high level, shared priorities set out in the 'Derbyshire Carers Strategy 2020 - 2025'.

Engagement has been undertaken at various levels with carers, partners and providers across the Health, Social Care and Voluntary sector and included Creative Carers, Healthwatch Derbyshire, Links CVS, Derbyshire Carers Association and the National Development Team for Inclusion. Targeted engagement was also carried out with BAME, Mental Health and Learning Disability carers.

The Council completed the ADASS Carers Self-Assessment, informed by feedback from an on-line survey (completed by over 100 carers) and an engagement event (attended by over 50 carers and partners) both considered instrumental in the formation of the strategy.

The Council also took part in the biennial NHS Digital Satisfaction Survey for Adult Carers in England 2018/19 and the findings from this latest survey are also contained within the strategy.

Overall, we received a range of feedback about what is important to carers, but the key priorities carers cited were:

- **Systems and services that support carers:** Carers want to access what they need quickly and simply without going through complicated systems and processes
- **Improving carer health and wellbeing:** Carers want acknowledgment of the toll caring can take on their physical and mental health and need proactive support to maintain their health and take a break from caring
- **Accurate information which is clear and easy to find:** Carers want someone to talk to who has good knowledge and understanding of the system and can make it easier to ask the right questions, particularly around finance and accessing services.

Further priorities set out in the strategy include supporting young carers, the early identification of carers, carer employment and financial wellbeing, involving carers as experts and the support of carers through the wider community and society to make Derbyshire truly 'carer-friendly'. The overall approach is consistent with early intervention, prevention and community support.

The strategy also recognises that investment is required to meet the requirements of the Care Act (2014) and Children and Families Act (2014) to ensure that carers are not pushed to breaking point by a lack of information, advice and support.

Supporting carers remains a priority for Derbyshire's health and social care system. The priorities and actions within this strategy complement and link with the priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Joined up Care Derbyshire plan to enable the adoption of a comprehensive, whole system approach to identifying and supporting carers.

We have also taken learning from national sources so that the priorities set out in the strategy support the delivery of the Department of Health and Social Care Carers Action Plan (2018) and the objectives for carers outlined in the NHS Long Term Plan (2019), both of which have been strongly endorsed in our discussions with carers locally.

**RESOLVED** that the Cabinet Member approved the implementation of the Derbyshire Carers Strategy 2020 – 2025.

**12/20      EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC RESOLVED** that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items on the agenda to avoid the disclosure of the kind of exempt information detailed in the following summary of proceedings:-

**SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS CONDUCTED AFTER THE PUBLIC WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING**

1. To confirm the exempt minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Adult Care held on 19 March 2020.