

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Cabinet **DATE:** 18th January 2016

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PORTFOLIO: Councillor Sabia Hussain-Health and Wellbeing

PART I **NON-KEY DECISION**

SLOUGH CARING FOR OUR CARERS: JOINT COMMISSIONING STRATEGY 2016-21

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To provide Cabinet with the opportunity to review, comment and then approve the draft Joint Carers Commissioning Strategy for Slough Borough Council (SBC) and Slough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) 2016-21.

1.2 This new strategy will update the interim Joint Carers Strategy 2014-15 in light of changing legislation as well as build on recent progress to support carers.

2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

The Cabinet is invited to comment on and resolve to approve the Joint Carers Commissioning strategy 2016-21, including resource allocation.

3 The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan

3.1 The five year draft Joint Carers Commissioning strategy supports a number of national and local priorities and legislative changes.

3.2 It aligns the local priorities with the four key national priorities in the 'Carers Strategy: the Second National Action Plan 2014 to 2016' and the 'National Carers Strategy: Recognised, Valued and Supported: Next Steps for the Carers Strategy' (2010). These priorities are:

Priority area 1: Identification and recognition

Supporting those with caring responsibilities to identify themselves as carers at an early stage, recognising the value of their contribution and involving them in designing local care provision and planning care packages.

Priority area 2: Realising and releasing potential

Enabling those with caring responsibilities to fulfil their educational and employment potential.

Priority area 3: A life outside of caring

Personalised support both for carers and those they support, enabling them to have a family and community life.

Priority area 4: Supporting Carers to stay healthy

Supporting carers to remain mentally and physically well.

3.3 It responds to the major legislation changes to adult social care, introduced by the Care Act 2014. The Act and statutory guidance sets out the new duties for local authorities and partners as well as new rights for service users and carers. The Act aims to achieve:

- Clearer and fairer care and support to both service users and carers
- Improved physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of both the person needing care and their carer
- Prevention and delay the need for care and support
- Putting people in control of their lives

3.4 It also responds to changes introduced by the Children and Families Act 2014. This Act requires increased collaboration between Adult and Children’s services through adopting a ‘whole family approach’. It places a specific duty onto local authorities to ensure young carers are identified and assessed. This gives young carers the same rights as adult carers. Parent carers also have the same rights to a stand alone assessment called a ‘parent carers needs assessment’.

Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

3.5 This joint strategy supports the delivery of the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy (SJW Strategy) 2013-16 and work streams within the Priority Delivery Groups. The main priority which applies to carers within the SJW Strategy is health. It states:

"By 2028, Slough will be healthier, with reduced inequalities, improved wellbeing and opportunities for our residents to live positive, active and independent lives".

3.6 The JSNA is currently being refreshed and includes needs assessment data relating to Slough carers extracted from the Census 2011. This is detailed in the table below. Slough carers amount to 14% of the local population compared to the national average which is 12%.

Age Group	Numbers of people providing 1 - 19 hours unpaid care a week	Numbers of people providing 20 - 49 hours unpaid care a week	Numbers of people providing 50 or more hours unpaid care a week	Total number of people providing unpaid care a week
0 to 24	1,013	208	129	1,350
25 to 49	3,438	1,047	1,177	5,662
50 to 64	1,907	503	687	3,097
65 and over	696	219	598	1,513
Total:	7,054	1,977	2,591	11,622

3.7 The refreshed JSNA identifies a number of key inequalities experienced by carers based on national and local information. This information suggests carers will often ignore their own financial, health and emotional needs, putting the needs of those they care for before themselves. As a consequence caring can impact on many aspects of their lives including, accessing and staying in employment, finances,

¹ Office for National Statistics

health and emotional wellbeing, accessing social activities, relationships, achieving educational potential and juggling work and caring responsibilities. In order to address the unmet needs of carers, the JSNA identifies the following activity;

- Tackling health inequalities for carers
- Promoting social inclusion
- Improving employment, training and educational opportunities
- Improving access to mainstream and preventative services
- Improving advice and information including benefits advice
- Ensuring carers are aware they are entitled to a Carers Assessment
- Increasing training to support carers in their caring role.
- Direct Payments for carers who meet the eligibility threshold, enabling increased personalised support
- Developing the range and quality of preventative community based support for the carer and the person they care for.

Five Year Plan Outcomes

3.8 The Carers Strategy and supporting action plan will help to deliver the Councils five year plan. The relevant outcomes are:

- Children and young people in Slough will be healthy, resilient and have positive life chances.
- More people will take responsibility and manage their own health, care and support needs

4 Other Implications

(a) Financial

4.1 As outlined in the draft strategy, for the period 2015-16, the total Slough SBC and Slough ASC budget for carer specific activity is £491,000. This includes the carers elements identified within the Better Care Fund and the Department of Health grant to support the implementation of the new duties and responsibilities introduced within the Care Act. This will fund the following activity:

Carers Assessments / Reviews/Support planning
Carers Direct Payments – adult carers
Community and Voluntary sector preventative support to include carers
Young Carers Support
Additional funding to support replacement care
Carers Information
Marie Curie - to support end of life care
Early Bird and Early Bird Plus - families with children with autism

4.2 The budget for commissioned respite care services which provide short breaks or overnight care 2014/5 is £578,000. In addition SBC manage a learning disability respite service which has a budget of £429,000. Respite services are chargeable to the cared for and will also benefit their carer/s.

4.3 SBC Children's Services budget to support parents of children with learning disabilities and difficulties as well as children with special educational needs is £1,377,300. This will support the following activity:

Disabled Children's respite
Short breaks services
Home from home respite
Home care
Direct payments

4.4 It is anticipated as carers become more aware of their entitlement to an assessment; the numbers coming forward will increase as will those meeting the eligibility threshold for support. The Department of Health (DOH) estimates that 48% of carers assessed or reviewed by local authorities will be eligible for a Direct Payment. (This is based on DOH information outlined in Care Act Equality Impact Assessment 16/10/14).

4.5 The 2013-14 Referrals, Assessment and Packages of Care (RAP) data for SBC reported that 309 carer assessments were completed for adults caring for another adult. As anticipated, indications are that numbers of carers requesting an assessment are increasing. For the period April to June 2015, 189 carer assessments were completed for adults caring for another adult. This compares with 103 for the same period in 2014. Using the DOH modelling formula, SBC projects the estimated additional carers assessments for 2015/6 is likely to be between 500 and 850 depending on rate of take-up. The estimated number of adults caring for another adult known to Adult Social Care is likely to be between 900 and 1,250. Again these numbers are projected to further increase moving forward.

4.6 In line with the requirements of the Care Act, SBC has introduced Direct Payments for carers using a Resource Allocation System (RAS). Adult carers meeting the threshold for this support will be offered a Direct Payment based on their assessed needs. This will be used to help to meet the identified outcomes in their assessment. Three levels of payments have been introduced. These levels of payments will be monitored in light of numbers of carers coming forward and being assessed as eligible for support and long term affordability to the Council.

4.7 SBC does not currently charge for carers' support services and this position was reaffirmed by Cabinet earlier this year. However this will be reviewed in autumn 2016 as part of the council wide policy on charging in light of budget pressures including understanding the financial impact of the Care Act. This will include numbers of carers coming forward for assessments and being eligible for support. Any changes to existing policies would require a full equality impact assessment including consultation with carers. Targeted support will need to remain in place for those carers that are most at risk.

(b) Risk Management

Risk/Threat/Opportunity	Mitigation(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of resources to implement the strategy. (Risk)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commissioned the community and voluntary sector to deliver the Slough Prevention Alliance. They will take a bigger role in the identification, assessment and support of carers (new contract commences Jan 2016)• Develop stronger partnerships to ensure a more cohesive approach in supporting carers• To monitor and develop systems to manage increase numbers to carers assessment• To monitor the impact of Direct Payments and adjust Resource Allocation System bands if financially unsustainable• Review charging policy as required
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased numbers of carers identified in Slough (Opportunity)• Carers receive increased support to help them in their caring role (Opportunity)• Help delay residential /hospital admissions and pressure on budgets(Opportunity)	

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

This draft strategy will enable SBC and Slough CCG to work together with their partner organisations to meet new legal duties and responsibilities to adult and young carers. This includes assessing the needs of the carer in their own right as well as for those assessed as eligible, an entitlement to assistance to help meet their needs as a carer. It also commits to involving carers in the development and commissioning of future local services to meet both their needs and the people they care for.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

This strategy builds upon achievements developed within the interim strategy. An Equalities Impact Assessment will be completed which will address the need to ensure the strategy meets the needs of carers within Slough's diverse community. It also highlight the need to strive to ensure that the commissioning of future services are responsive and personalised to meet the individual needs of all carers in Slough including carers from black and minority ethnic groups and working carers.

(e) Workforce

The Adult Social Care workforce and practice is currently being re-modelled moving away from traditional building based care to increased community based preventive support. This will mean carers and the people they care for are identified earlier and access support proportionate to their needs. This new model of working will require stronger links with community and voluntary organisations.

The transfer of management of Children's Services to the new Children's Trust requires the need to ensure parent and young carers are supported effectively within the new workforce arrangements as well as complying with new responsibilities for adults and children's services to work together under the Children and Families Act 2014.

5 **Supporting Information**

5.1 This draft strategy outlines progress to support carers over the last twelve months since the implementation of the interim strategy. A summary of these taken from the strategy include:

- Re-launching the Slough Carers Partnership Board with active representation from Slough carers, one of whom is a co- chair.
- Establishing the Slough Carer's Providers Forum to promote more integrated collaborative activity.
- Developed Care Act compliant carers assessment tools, processes and pathways. This includes the option of a combined assessment with the carers and cared for.
- Increased numbers of adult carers accessing a carers assessment since April 2015 (April-June 2015 189 completed compared with 103 for the same period in 2014).
- Introduced direct payments for carers assessed as eligible for this support.
- Together with carers, produced accessible material to ensure carers are aware of their rights.
- Consulted carers about their training needs and then rolled out a programme reflecting what they have told us.
- Developed Council wide 'whole family approach' processes and pathways to support young carers locally which is in line with the recently updated national guidance.
- Developed a young carers assessment/screening tool.
- Introduced carers GP registration within Slough to ensure health needs of carers are given a higher priority.

5.2 Carers and other key stakeholders have been involved in the development of the Strategy. Local carers have agreed our vision and local priorities. A small group of carers developed a questionnaire that was circulated to others (107 returned). Discussion also took place during National Carers Week (8-14 June 2015) and at the carers forum on 16th September 2015 where 27 carers were in attendance. The draft version has also been circulated widely and was available on both SBC and CCG websites where comments were invited. An earlier draft was then amended where comments were founded. As outlined in paragraph 3.1, the new proposed local priorities align with the national priorities, which are:

- **Priority area 1: Identification and recognition**
- **Priority area 2: Realising and releasing potential**
- **Priority area 3: A life outside of caring**
- **Priority area 4: Supporting Carers to stay healthy**

5.3 The action plan to support the new draft strategy has been developed in light of what carers have told us is important. It also responds to legal changes and building on recent progress to support carers. It will be reviewed regularly with carers in light of any changing priorities over the next 5 years.

6 **Comments of Other Committees**

6.1 The strategy was presented to and endorsed by the Health Scrutiny Committee on 1ST October 2015. It recommended that the following matters be referred to the Cabinet:

- That the Cabinet considers the further steps the Council can take to identify, support and raise public awareness of the role of carers by widely publicising the Strategy to partners, community organisations, schools and the media.
- That the Commissioner for Health & Wellbeing discuss with Slough Clinical Commissioning Group how the GP carers register could be improved to better identify carers and improve access to the available support, with the Panel to receive a progress report at a future meeting.
- That the Cabinet direct Council departments to take the Strategy into account when services are reviewed to ensure all relevant Council services are compliant with the requirements of the Care Act and better support Slough's carers.

7 **Conclusion**

7.1 This draft Joint Carers Commissioning Strategy builds upon the progress over the last eighteen months to support carers. This new strategy sets out the priorities for the Council and Slough CCG to support Carers over the next five years. It aims to:

- Meet the legal duties and responsibilities to carers
- Provide a voice for local carers, putting them at the centre of designing the support that they need
- Collaboratively sets out our vision for carers
- Provide a clear steer to the market, partners and local communities of our vision for carers in Slough
- Develop the market to ensure the right support is in place to support carers

7.2 Cabinet are invited to review and comment and then approve this draft Joint Carers Commissioning Strategy for Slough Borough Council (SBC) and Slough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) 2016-21.

8 **Appendices Attached**

'Slough Caring For Our Carers: Joint Carers' Commissioning Strategy 2016-21 - draft

9 **Background Papers**

None