



Bristol Health and Wellbeing Board

Title of Report:	All-age Carers Strategy
Author (including organisation):	Sonia Davies, Bristol City Council
Date of Board meeting:	28th July 2021
Purpose:	Decision

1. Executive Summary

This paper presents the 4 strategic principles of a new All-age Carers Strategy for Bristol. These principles have been developed by carers in Bristol and was endorsed by the “Bristol Carers Voice” partnership board in June 2021.

2. Purpose of the Paper

This paper is to request endorsement by the Health & Wellbeing Board of the 4 principles of a new All-Age Carers Strategy for Bristol. It should be noted that a fully designed publishable version of a strategy has not yet been completed, however this will follow endorsement by the Board.

Specifically the Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- Endorse the 4 strategic priorities of an all-age carers strategy for Bristol
- Agree to schedule a carers discussion for a future joint HWBB and Children & Families Board
- Suggest names of people willing to be involved in co-producing the Action Plan for adults to deliver against the strategic priorities.

3. Background and evidence base

Bristol’s Carers Strategy ran out in April 2020. Prior to that, work was undertaken to co-design a new strategy with carers in the city, so that we could really reflect the key priorities for Bristol going forward. Some consultation and engagements were held, including an online consultation which closed in January 2020.

At that point, the COVID-19 pandemic struck, and we were unable to continue with the work at that time – partly due to officer time to undertake the work needed, but predominantly due to carers’ own ability to give time to a process during a significant period of challenge for them personally. However, since then, work has been done with carer reps as far as they were able to throughout 2020 and during the first half of 2021.

This has led to the development of 4 key priorities for Carers of all ages (young carers, parent carers, and adult carers) which have been developed by carers in Bristol.

On 22nd June 2021, the “Bristol Carers Voice” partnership board formally agreed to adopt the principles attached here. This is the document presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board today.

It should be noted that because of the restrictions placed on carers through the pandemic, this document is the first step in a series of separated pieces of work to deliver a comprehensive carers strategy for Bristol. Subsequent steps will be to develop a multi-agency action plan to really set out how we will work together to deliver against these

principles. This plan will be co-produced with carers as well as other stakeholders, and volunteers to be involved are welcomed.

In addition, Bristol City Council, in partnership with Bristol, North Somerset & South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, will recommission the carers support services currently in place in Bristol, using these principles to shape the services needed.

There are significant challenges facing carers as a direct result of the pandemic. A range of activities are being undertaken to address the issues that have been raised throughout the pandemic. For example, there are an estimated 48,000 carers in Bristol, however around 17,000 of those are known to services in the city (Adult Social Care, commissioned support services, and health services). This leaves a high number of 'hidden carers' in the city who currently have no support to their caring role.

Further work is underway to address some of these immediate challenges, and it is requested that the Board support a wider discussion of these, and proposed solutions, at a future joint meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board, and Children & Families Board.

4. Community/stakeholder engagement

The principles presented here have been written by carers in Bristol – the role of Bristol City Council, in conjunction with BNSSG CCG, has been to coordinate the work, and produce the final version presented here. This includes work with young carers, as well as parent carers of disabled children and adult carers.

5. Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to endorse the principles presented here as the All-age Carers Strategy for Bristol.

In addition, the Board is asked to agree to schedule a wider discussion on carers at a future joint Health & Wellbeing Board and Children & Families Board.

Members of the Board are also asked to consider whether they have representatives in their organisations who would be well placed to take forward the development of an Action Plan for Bristol, to deliver against these priorities.

6. City Benefits

Carers provide a significant level of unpaid care to vulnerable children and adults in the city. Carers ensure that people are supported in their own environments and also save the City a significant cost in terms of health and social care. It is critical that the value of carers is recognised and seen. However it should be noted that carers often work without support themselves, which puts them under an incredible level of pressure.

7. Financial and Legal Implications

Not applicable

8. Appendices

- Bristol All-Age Carers Strategic Priorities, 2021-2025