

Birmingham City Council

Report to Cabinet

15th October 2024



Title:	BIRMINGHAM CARERS PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY 2024-2029
Lead Member:	Councillor Robert Pocock, Interim Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care Councillor Mick Brown, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families
Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee:	Health and Adult Social Care
Has this report been shared with the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair?	Councillor Fred Grindrod
Report Author:	Saba Rai, Head of Service Adult Social Care 07704 539752 Saba.raai@birmingham.gov.uk
Authorised by:	Louise Collett, Acting Strategic Director Adult Social Care
Is this a Key Decision?	Yes Forward Plan Reference: 013367/2024
Reason(s) why not included on the Forward Plan and confirm who has authorised it to be considered:	Not applicable
Is this a Late Report?	No
Reason(s) why Late and confirm who has authorised it to be considered:	Not applicable
Is this decision eligible for 'call in?'	Yes
If 'call-in' has been dis-applied, please provide reason(s) and confirm who has authorised:	Not applicable
Wards:	All wards

Does this report contain exempt or confidential information?

No

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks Cabinet approval for the Birmingham Carers Partnership Strategy 2024-2029. In February 2022 Cabinet granted approval to consult on the refresh and update of Birmingham Carers Strategy 2018+. The strategy needed to be reviewed and updated to reflect the changing Birmingham landscape, needs of carers (post Covid) and to maximise opportunities for partnership working. The strategy and accompanying action plan will be the responsibility of Birmingham Strategic Commissioning Group reporting to the Birmingham Place Committee. The strategy acknowledges the valuable contribution of carers to the health and care system and will encompass all age and a whole system approach to delivery, putting carers right at its heart. The Birmingham Carers Partnership Group, which includes wider partners and key stakeholders, will contribute to the ongoing development, monitoring and delivery of the accompanying Partnership Action Plan.

2 COMMISSIONERS' REVIEW

- 2.1 Commissioners approve the proposals laid out in the report.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

- 3.1 Approve of the Birmingham Carers Partnership Strategy 2024-29.
- 3.2 Approve the governance arrangements for oversight and delivery of the Birmingham Carers Partnership Strategy 2024-2029 and Partnership Action Plan to the Birmingham Strategic Commissioning Group reporting to The Birmingham Place Committee.

4 KEY INFORMATION

Context

- 4.1 In February 2022 Cabinet granted approval to consult on the refresh and update of Birmingham Carers Strategy 2018+.
- 4.2 The strategy needed to be reviewed and updated to reflect the changing Birmingham landscape, needs of carers (post COVID-19 pandemic) and to maximise opportunities for partnership working across the health and care system.
- 4.3 One of the key outcomes of the 2018+ Birmingham carers strategy was that partnership working across the Carers pathway has become far more robust. This strategy has been developed on behalf of and in collaboration with The Birmingham Children's Trust and Integrated Care Board. It reflects an all age and whole systems approach to supporting Carers.

- 4.4 The strategy will take a whole life course approach to reduce the impact of the transition between different ages and stages of life. This partnership strategy aims to ensure that Carers get the right type and level of support at the right time. This approach reflects the requirements of the Care Act 2014 provisions for Carers and the priorities identified in Think Local Act Personal guidance making it real for Carers. It also recognises the importance of promoting positive health and wellbeing, including self-care and self-management.
- 4.5 Our vision is for a city where **‘Carers are recognised and supported in a Carer Friendly City, where Carers are listened to, involved, appreciated and valued’**. Birmingham's commissioned Carer support provider is delivering the ‘Carer Friendly Brum’ initiative for the purpose of creating Carer friendly communities, where Carers can thrive in all areas of life and work. A component of this initiative is training and enabling those whose caring journey have come to an end, enhanced opportunity back into the workplace. Knowledge and expertise gained along the journey, often makes carers with lived experience excellent candidates for employment opportunities within formal Support, Care and Health settings.
- 4.6 It is difficult to estimate the full value of the care and support provided by Unpaid Carers as it is often an expression of affection and respect or a sense of duty. However, without the support of Carers, demands on health and care services would increase dramatically and services would struggle to cope. Unpaid carers contribute the equivalent of 4 million paid care workers (7.9 billion hours) to the social care system; without them, ‘the system would collapse’ (Bottery and Mallorie 2023).
- 4.7 It is estimated there are over 6.5 million Unpaid Carers in the UK with 1.4 million people providing over 50 hours of unpaid care per week. Unpaid Carers in England and Wales contribute a staggering £445 million to the economy every day – that’s £162 billion per year (Petrillo and Bennett, 2023).
- 4.8 Carers UK estimates the number of Unpaid Carers increased by 4.5 million at the height of the pandemic to 13.6 million and saved the UK economy £193 billion a year. Studies, such as those by Carers UK and Personal Social Services Research Unit suggest that every £1 invested in supporting Carers yields between £4 and £10 in savings, primarily through reduced demand in Social Care and Health Services.
- 4.9 The strategy and accompanying Action Plan will be the responsibility of Birmingham Strategic Commissioning Group reporting to The Birmingham Place Committee. Birmingham Carers Partnership Group, which includes wider partners and key stakeholders, will contribute to the ongoing development, monitoring, delivery and annual review of the accompanying Partnership Action Plan.
- 4.10 The strategy is developed within the context of Birmingham City Council’s S114 notice and financial challenges. This strategy acknowledges the important role of

carers and will ensure that carers are involved and engaged in shaping plans and services that impact them directly and indirectly, delivering on our commitment to carers '*I want my voice to be heard*'.

- 4.11 Whilst the strategy does not commit the council to additional expenditure, it is important to acknowledge that the council currently commissions services for unpaid carers which will be pivotal to achieving the vision and commitments set out in the strategy. At a time of difficult financial decisions for BCC and its partners, maintaining investment in Carers services is an essential investment in the health and wellbeing of carers, and in keeping demand away from already struggling health and social care services.
- 4.12 The Birmingham Carers Hub services were commissioned by Adult Social Care for 5 years in 2023 utilising a 55% Better Care Fund contribution to Social Care from the Integrated Care Board towards circa £3.1m per annum investment. Birmingham Childrens Trust has recently awarded a 3-year contract for the Childrens Carers Service at circa £0.455m per annum which goes live from 1st October 2024. There is considerable collaborative working to ensure services and pathways of assessment and support for unpaid carers are joined up and integrated.

Proposal and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.13 It is proposed Cabinet approve the Birmingham Carers Partnership Strategy 2024-2029 and governance arrangements.
- 4.14 The rationale:
- To enable Birmingham to have a refreshed Carers strategy taking an all age, whole-systems approach, reflecting on changes and achievements over the past five years.
 - To ensure an effective partnership approach with enhanced monitoring and governance.
 - To enable Birmingham to continue the commitment to Carers in the City reflecting on what Carers have told us is important to them.

Other Options Considered

Option 1: Develop a Birmingham Carers Partnership Strategy that builds upon the previous Carers Strategy but reflects the significant progress made including changes in the landscape in Birmingham, emerging areas of work and best practice. This is the recommended option.

Option 2: The current strategy is not refreshed or updated. This is not a preferred option:

- The previous strategy was written in 2018 and is now out of date. It does not reflect changes to the health and social care system, legislation or achievements over the past five years.

- The previous Birmingham City Council strategy does not truly reflect the current robust partnership approach and commissioning model.
- Carers needs have changed over the past five years, including from the impact of Covid 19. It is essential that the carers strategy reflects our vision and commitment to carers.

Option 3: A Birmingham City Council strategy is developed. This is not a preferred option:

- This would not reflect a true partnership approach to supporting carers across Birmingham or the approach to commissioning of services.
- Carers engage with all parts of the system and want to feel valued, supported and involved. Taking a system approach ensures consistency in our commitments to carers, regardless of organisational boundaries.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 Implementation of the strategy does not expose the council to any risks as the strategy relates to continuously improving partnership working within existing resources.
- 5.2 Any risks to Birmingham city council identified through the lifetime of the strategy will be evaluated and controlled in line with the Birmingham City Council Risk Management Framework.
- 5.3 The project management, governance and oversight of the strategy will be through Carers Partnership Group chaired by the Director of Commissioning (Adult Social Care) and will report through to Birmingham Strategic Commissioning Group chaired by Strategic Director Adult Social Care.
- 5.4 Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the current level of risk is identified as low.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 There is not a legal or statutory requirement to consult on a strategy, but it is best practice to do so.
- 6.2 Carers were at the core of the consultation to inform the development of the strategy and commitments. During Carers Week 2023 we consulted on what was important to Carers and the current commitments in Birmingham Carers Strategy 2018+.
- 6.3 At the next consultation event on Carers Rights Day in November 2023, where over 200 Carers attended, we shared back with Carers the outcomes of the previous consultation. The Carers Commitments and Vision had been changed to reflect the responses.
- 6.4 A public facing consultation on Birmingham City Council (BCC) BeHeard consultation data base was available from 20th March to 20th April 2024. The

consultation information was shared with Neighbourhood Networks Team, PURE and Customer Involvement Team to share with their databases of citizens and citizen champions. In addition, it was promoted to Public Health Citizens Champions, BCC Carers Group, providers, NAIS, Early Intervention and Prevention Team and BCC Working Carers Group. Birmingham Carers Hub publicised the consultation ensuring Carers had an opportunity to respond.

- 6.5 Relevant partners and stakeholders were consulted via the Birmingham Carers Partnership Group, Carers Operational Group and Birmingham Strategic Commissioning Group. A strategic level consultation took place with key stakeholders and partners with a focus on the Partnership Action Plan.
- 6.6 Focus groups were held with Carers at Carers Voice Forum for Adult Carers and an event for Young Carers.
- 6.7 Following completion of the consultation appropriate changes were made to Birmingham Carers Partnership Strategy. During June and July 2024, the findings and the final draft strategy were presented to Carers, partners, providers and key stakeholders for final comments before progressing on the governance pathway.
- 6.8 The Birmingham Carers Partnership Strategy and action plan has been endorsed by the Birmingham Strategic Commissioning Group and the Birmingham Place Committee.

7 MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Councillor Robert Pocock, Interim Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care and Councillor Mick Brown, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families were briefed on the report on 28th August 2024 and have each approved the report.

- 7.1 The Vice Chair of Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Kath Scott, was briefed on the report on 28th August 2024 on behalf of Health Overview and Scrutiny committee and has approved the report. The report was sent to Cllr Fred Grindrod Chair of Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 24th September 2024.

8 IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Best Value

- 8.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.
- 8.2 Any commissioning undertaken as a result of the Birmingham Carers Partnership Strategy will consider financial implications of their proposals separately in line with each partners governance arrangements.

Legal

- 8.3 The Care Act 2014 set out new legal guidelines relating to care and support for adults and the law to support carers. There are provisions to safeguard adults from abuse or neglect and care standards. In addition, it places clear legal responsibilities on the Local Authority and creates a single duty to undertake carers assessment based on need.

The Children and Families Act 2014 makes provisions for children, families and people with special needs. It seeks to improve services for vulnerable children and introduces new rights for young or parent carers to an assessment on need.

Legal advice will be provided as or when necessary and/or appropriate.

Equalities

- 8.4 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and no adverse impacts have been identified. Any potential impacts that emerge will be monitored and mitigated inherently within the process and managed via the Risk Management process. See Appendix 2 for the Equality Impact Assessment.

Procurement

- 8.5 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations in this report.
- 8.6 Any procurement undertaken as a result of the Birmingham Carers Partnership Strategy will consider procurement implications of their proposal separately and in accordance with each partners governance arrangements.

People Services

- 8.7 There are no potential staffing implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Climate Change, Nature and Net Zero

- 8.8 There are no potential climate change, nature and net zero implications arising from the recommendations in this report. Should this change at any time during the life of the strategy a further report will be presented to Cabinet, including a full ESA. The Environmental and Sustainability Assessment can be seen at Appendix 3.

Corporate Parenting

- 8.9 There are no potential corporate parenting implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Other

- 8.10 There are no other implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

9 APPENDICES

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Risk register Birmingham Carers Partnership Strategy 2024-2029
- 9.2 Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment Birmingham Carers Partnership Strategy 2024-2029
- 9.3 Appendix 3 – Environmental and Sustainability Assessment Birmingham Carers Partnership Strategy 2024-2029
- 9.4 Appendix 4 – Birmingham Carers Partnership Strategy 2024-2029
- 9.5 Appendix 5 – Partnership Action Plan Birmingham Carers Partnership Strategy 2024-2029

10 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Birmingham Carers Partnership Strategy consultation report – 2024.
- 10.2 Care Act 2014.
- 10.3 Children and Families Act 2014.