



---

## Report of the Director of Adult Social Services

### Executive Board

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> May 2009

Subject: Carers Strategy for Leeds 2009-2012 'Every Carer Counts'.

---

Electoral Wards Affected: ALL

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)

---

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Leeds has had a multi-agency Carers Strategy since 1997 and the most recent version, which was approved by Executive Board, covered the period 2003-06. The new Leeds Carers Strategy 2009-2012 involved extensive consultation with carers, carers organisations and other stakeholders and the document 'Every Carer Counts' has been approved by the Governing Bodies of a wide range of agencies. In addition the new Leeds Strategy reflects the objectives and the new developments announced in the Government's National Carer Strategy, 'Carers at the heart of 21<sup>st</sup> century families and communities', launched in June 2008.

The Strategy will have annual action plans which sit underneath it and its implementation will be monitored by the Carers Strategy Implementation Group which is co-chaired by the Deputy Director of Social Services (Strategic Commissioning) and the NHS Leeds Director of Commissioning for Priority Groups. It is the over-arching document which drives the development of carers support services and the allocation of Carers Grant which is part of the Area Based Grant, within the context of the National Carers Strategy.

The Strategy will be launched at an event in Carers Week, on June 9<sup>th</sup>, attended by the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and the Lord Mayor elect. It will be published on the Leeds City Council website, distributed widely to the public and to all elected Members and Members of Parliament.

The Strategy is attached.

## **1.0 Purpose Of This Report**

- 1.1 To advise elected Members of the content of the Leeds Carers Strategy 2009-2012, 'Every Carer Counts' and to seek it's approval for it's publication and dissemination.

## **2.0 Background Information**

- 2.1 Carers are people who look after family, partners or friends because they are ill, frail or have a disability. The care they provide is unpaid.
- 2.2 The Census 2001 was the first census to include a question about caring and so for the first time, we knew exactly how many Leeds residents considered themselves to be carer. It showed there were 70,446 carers in Leeds. This figure includes 14,369 carers who provide more than fifty hours of care per week.
- 2.3 Twenty three percent (16,215) of Leeds carers are aged over 65 years. It is estimated that forty percent of carers begin or end their period of caring in any year, so the carer population is very fluid.
- 2.4 The Census 2001 also showed that 75% of carers in Leeds were of working age – 52,805 people. Of these, 14,799 men and 9150 women were combining full-time work with caring. A further 1,542 men and 9,150 women were working part-time and also providing care.
- 2.5 There were 1,232 young carers under age 16 years and 68 of these were providing more that fifty hours of care per week.
- 2.6 It has been agreed that the next census will also include the question about carers so we will see to what extent the numbers involved in caring are rising. Changes in the age structure of the population and advances in medicine are increasing the demand for carers and will continue to draw more people into a caring role. CarersUK have suggested that the number of informal or family carers available will need to increase by sixty percent by 2037. The proportion of carers who are providing the greatest amounts of care - over 50 hours per week - is increasing more rapidly than carers in the lower census category (0-19 hours caring per week).
- 2.7 The 2003-2006 Carers' Strategy for Leeds was successful in delivering most of its objectives by the time it expired and had also responded to new legislation and emerging themes during those 3 years. For example, the Carers' Employment and Equal Opportunities Act 2004 and the 'Back Me Up' Carers' Emergency Plan Campaign in 2005. On March 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 a large and comprehensive Carers' Emergency Plan Scheme was launched in Leeds, to provide care for up to seventy-two hours when a carer of an adult or a child requiring care due to their health condition or disability has an emergency which prevents them from caring, such as a sudden illness.
- 2.8 The new Strategy includes a commitment to provide three Changing Places toilets in the centre of Leeds during the period of the strategy. These are toilets which are large enough for two carers and a person in an electric wheelchair, and will provide an electrically operated changing table and overhead hoist so that adults and larger children can be changed in comfort and with dignity. It will also enable the carers of adults with disabilities to go out and about in the city centre for longer periods. Another new commitment is the establishment of a Carers Hub in the new Equality Assembly which is being developed for Leeds.

- 2.9 Two Carers' Fora were held during 2005 and in the autumn of 2006 four Carers' Strategy consultation events were held around the city, including one for young carers, in which carers were invited to identify their priorities. These priorities provide the content of 'Every Carer Counts'.
- 2.10 The Government published a National Carers' Strategy in July 2008, and the key themes and initiatives have been incorporated into the Leeds Strategy.

### **3.0 Main Issues**

- 3.1 Unpaid carers are vital to the health of the city and to the quality of life of the people they care for. It has been estimated by CarersUK, the national organisation which represents carers, that the value of carer unpaid care in Leeds is £1,017 million per year.
- 3.2 Leeds has always had a strong profile on carers issues but there is still much more that needs to be done to improve support to carers and give value to what they provide for the people they care for. The Strategy shows the commitment of Leeds City Council and its partners in Health and Social Care to carers, and the plans to improve support to them.
- 3.3 The main aims of the Strategy incorporate those of the Carers' Charter for Leeds which was launched in November 2008 and is attached at Appendix 1. The document has a set of eighteen generic, fundamental pledges concerning equality, respect, advocacy, listening to carers views, carers assessments, breaks, information and so on. This is followed by a section in which each of the main statutory signatories identify particular actions which they will undertake to deliver better support to carers over the next 3 years. There are specific sections on carers for adults, carers for children and young carers.
- 3.4 Annual action plans will be produced in which partner agencies will set out their actions to implement the commitments in the Strategy. These action plans are approved and monitored by the Carers Strategy Implementation group. This group is made up of representatives from all partner agencies and carers and is jointly chaired by senior officers from Adult Social Care and NHS Leeds.
- 3.4 An equality impact assessment of the document has been carried out using the independent perspective of equality professionals at Touchstone and the Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust and their contributions were included.

### **4. Implications For Council Policy And Governance**

- 4.1 The Council continues to provide leadership on Carers issues in Leeds and the document has implications for all Directorates in accordance with the One Council Approach. Leeds City Council leads a wide range of statutory and non-statutory sector agencies who are signed up to this multi-agency initiative, in acknowledging the value of carers and forming co-operative partnerships to make all services as sensitive as possible to their impact on carers.

### **5 Legal And Resource Implications**

- 5.1 The Carers' Strategy 2009-2012, 'Every Carer Counts', is fully compliant with current carers' legislation.

5.2 All Council initiatives are fully funded by what was formerly the Carers Grant, and is now part of the Area Based Grant, to be used for carers support and services. NHS Leeds also receives direct funding for carers' respite breaks.

## 6 **Conclusions**

6.1 The Carers' Strategy will ensure that Leeds City Council maintains its profile of supporting carers and facilitates partnership working and thus will improve the health and well being of carers and the people they care for.

## 7 **Recommendations**

7.1 That the Executive Board notes the content of the Carers' Strategy for Leeds 2009-2012 'Every Carer Counts' and approves the Strategy and its implementation.

### DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THIS REPORT

'Carers at the heart of 20<sup>th</sup> century families and communities'. Department of Health 286149 Jun 08 (RIC).

CarersUK Policy Briefing January 2009 'Facts about Carers'.