

North Tyneside Council

Report to Cabinet

Date: 14 October 2024

North Tyneside Commitment to Carers

Portfolio(s):	Adult Social Care	Cabinet Member(s):	Cllr J Hunter
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Report from Service Area: Adult Social Care

Responsible Officer: Eleanor Binks (Tel: (0191) 643 7076)
Director of Adult Services

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

This report outlines a new Borough wide Commitment to Carers for 2024-2029.

The North Tyneside Commitment to Carers 2024-2029 has been developed by the North Tyneside Carers Partnership Board, which includes decision makers from a wide range of statutory and voluntary sector agencies and organisations across the Borough, including the Authority.

The Commitment to Carers sets out a shared ambition from those organisations which is to improve the health and wellbeing of carers of all ages, supporting them to have a positive life and experiences, outside of their caring role. The Commitment also identifies actions that the North Tyneside Carers Partnership Board will carry out to improve the identification of carers in the Borough and services delivered to them. The Commitment has an associated work plan, currently in development, which be monitored at Partnership Board meetings.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (1) Endorse the North Tyneside Commitment to Carers 2024-2029 document appended to this report.
- (2) Acknowledge the role that informal carers play in support of the wider health and social care system in North Tyneside, and
- (3) Note that updates and progress on the Commitment will be reported by key partners from the Carers Partnership Board to the Health and Wellbeing Board as required.

1.3 Forward Plan:

Twenty eight days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 5 September 2024.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the following priorities in the 2020/24 Our North Tyneside Plan:

A thriving North Tyneside
A family friendly North Tyneside
A caring North Tyneside

The Commitment to Carers statement directly supports the Health and Wellbeing Board's Equally Well strategy.

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Background

The 2021 Census identified 19,683 unpaid carers in North Tyneside with over 50% providing 20 or more hours of unpaid care per week. This is important because the more hours of care someone provides, the greater the impact this is likely to have on their health, wellbeing and life outside of their caring role. The 2021 census was carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic and many carer's organisations say the real figure is higher than reported in the Census.

The North Tyneside Commitment to Carers (the Commitment) 2024-2029 and its associated workplan have been developed by the North Tyneside Carers

Partnership Board. The Board is made up of a range of statutory organisations including the Authority, North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (North Tyneside / Northumberland place), the NHS Foundation Trusts (Northumbria, Newcastle Hospitals and Cumbria, Northumberland and Tyne & Wear), North Tyneside Carers Centre, Healthwatch North Tyneside and NHS England.

1.5.2 Purpose of the Commitment to Carers Statement

The purpose is to ensure that the needs of carers in North Tyneside are considered and prioritised by the partners of the North Tyneside Carer's Partnership Board (the Partnership) and the wider health and care system in North Tyneside.

The Commitment has been developed in response to what carers have said to the Partnership.

Carer surveys and engagement activities are conducted on an annual basis across in the Borough and the priorities in the Commitment reflect the key themes carers of all ages have raised. The Commitment has been co-produced with carers.

1.5.3 Priorities Areas

The Commitment to Carers includes the following priorities which seek to highlight and address the needs of unpaid carers.

- Carers' views shape the priorities and work of the Carers Partnership Board. Carers' views are effectively shared with providers and decision makers to increase the involvement of carers.
- Improve information for carers about their rights, what carers can expect and the support that is available to them.
- Work collaboratively to plan carer focused activity and identify opportunities for investment and strategic working.
- Improve the knowledge and skills of frontline staff to identify and support carers.
- Challenge all service providers and commissioners to consider how they can improve the identification and support for carers
- Review and improve carer support in particular service areas including: –
 - young carers
 - parent carers
 - carers of people with mental health issues
 - primary care settings
 - secondary care pathways

- respite support for carers

A detailed workplan is being developed alongside the Commitment to Carers and will outline the key actions, milestones and outcomes relating to each priority and timescales for implementation.

1.5.4 Delivering the Commitment to Carers

The Partnership Board's constituent members will individually and collectively take responsibility for raising the profile of carers and caring within their own organisations and hold them to account. Members will work in partnership to deliver a whole system change in response to identifying and supporting carers. All partner organisations will work with local partners to embed the Commitment across health, social, education and the voluntary and community sectors; raise the profile of carers and develop a consistent marketing and communication approach that promotes the ethos 'Think Carer'.

The Commitment will help ensure that carers rights and entitlements under the Care Act 2014 and the Children and Families Act 2014 are met and will commit to promote a culture that; embraces the contribution of carers of all ages; ensures that carers are valued and listened to; encourages carers to make choices about their caring role and have access to appropriate support.

The Commitment's work plan will be monitored at each Partnership Board meeting and an annual progress update will be published on the North Tyneside Living Well Website.

An update will also be made available to the Health and Wellbeing Board as required and also can be subject to review through the Authority's Caring Sub-Committee.

1.6 **Decision options:**

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet

Option 1

Agree the recommendations as set out in paragraph 1.2 above.

Option 2

Not agree the recommendations as set out in paragraph 1.2 above.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

- the North Tyneside Commitment to Carers has been directly co-produced with carers / people with lived experience of being a carer.
- the North Tyneside Carers Partnership Board has led on this work across North Tyneside and the Commitment and workplan represents and acknowledges the work done so far and also the challenges to support carers over the life of the plan, and
- the agencies involved in the drafting of the report, including representatives from the Authority have fully inputted into developing its content.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Supporting Carers in North Tyneside: North Tyneside Commitment to Carers 2024-2029

1.9 Contact officers:

Scott Woodhouse, Head of Commissioning – Adults, tel 0191 643 7082

Heather Crozier, Commissioning Manager Adult Social Care, tel. 07855 143867

1.10 Background information:

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

- (1) North Tyneside Commitment to Carers: North Tyneside Carers Partnership Board November 2015
- (2) Carers in North Tyneside research, led by Healthwatch North Tyneside on behalf of the Carers Partnership Board
<https://healthwatchnorthtyneside.co.uk/ourwork/carers/>
- (3) Carers Partnership Board's partner's individual carer focused research and strategy.

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

There are no direct budgetary implications arising out of this report or the Commitment to Carers. The Authority does have statutory duties to meet the needs of carers, and this will be met from within existing budgets in different service areas across the Authority, such as Adult Social Care, Children's Services.

There may be other finance and resource implications on other agencies and organisations that are part of the Carers' Commitment.

2.2 Legal

All Local Authorities are under statutory obligations in relation to carers.

The Care Act 2014 sets a number of duties which the Authority must ensure it exercises in relation to care. These include a duty to assess carers, to provide carers with support to meet their needs in accordance with national guidelines and a duty to provide information and advice, to promote the wellbeing of carers, and further where possible to prevent people needing support.

The Children and Families Act 2015 gives further statutory obligations to the Authority. This Act seeks to protect children and offers specific protections to young carers and parent carers of disabled children. The Authority is under a duty to give consideration as to whether a parent carer requires support in relation to the care they provide or which they intend to provide, whether the disabled child they are caring for has needs of support and whether those needs could be met by services provided by the Local Authority.

The Authority as with any other employer of employees that are carers is now to be bound by the new Carer's Leave Regulations 2024. Employees are entitled to unpaid leave to give or arrange care for a 'dependant' who has a physical or mental illness or injury that means they're expected to need care for more than 3 months.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

Staff from both Adults and Children's Social Care who work with Carers regularly, were both consulted about the development of the plan and involved in helping to establish the priorities. Staff were represented on a Task and Finish Group which was set up to manage the process of developing and updating the plan.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

The Carers Partnership Board is committed to hearing the voice of carers in the work that they do and strive to take co-production approaches to their work. They are also committed to providers and commissioners of all services in North Tyneside involving carers in reviewing and developing how they work. Each member of the Carers Partnership Board have their own mechanisms and approaches to gathering the views of carers. Organisations such as Healthwatch, the Carers' Centre, the Parent Carer Forum, PROPS North East and the Community Health Care Forum focus a lot of their work on hearing carers views and meeting carers needs.

The Board is committed to making the best use of the information that members gather to influence decision making and to understand how the experiences of carers changes over time. One of the key ways they do this is by surveying the views and experiences of carers every two years, and using these findings as the basis for the future action plan for the board. Healthwatch North Tyneside lead on local surveys with the support of all other board members. There is a cycle of surveying adult carers one year, young carers the next year. The Survey of Adult Carers in England (SACE) is undertaken by each local Authority in England, following National Guidelines. It asks questions about the quality of life of clients and the impact that the services they receive have on their quality of life. It also collects information about self reported general health and wellbeing. The findings from the Local surveys are reviewed with a group of carers to help develop the recommendations based on the information gathered. The reports are published online and shared with decision makers, service providers and carers, including North Tyneside's Health and Wellbeing Board.

For the purpose of the Commitment to Carers, the Carers Partnership Board established a Task and Finish Group made up of a range of partners with the purpose of updating the plan, this group included Carers who were actively involved in writing the plan.

2.4 Human rights

The Commitment to Carers helps the Authority to achieve the expectation on public authorities set out in The Human Rights Act. Particularly Article 8, protecting a person's right to respect for their private life, family life, home and correspondence.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

Unpaid carers are not a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010. However, the Authority ensures that the potential implications of its decisions, change processes and day to day activities on unpaid carers are considered and actions identified through equality impact assessment. In addition, those people that unpaid carers look after will poses relevant protected characteristics, so equality impact assessments will consider them.

Any change activities identified within the Commitment to Carers action plan will be subject to equality impact assessment.

2.6 Risk management

There are no risk management implications directly arising from this report.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications directly arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability implications directly arising from this report.

PART 3 – SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive
- Director(s) of Service
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer

- Interim Director of
Corporate Strategy &
Customer Service

