

# Carers Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017

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Wards: All

Parishes Affected: All

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## 1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To agree the recommendations of the Carers Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and support these going forward.
- 1.2 The population of Swindon is projected to increase over the next two decades due to the amount of homes that are being built and because people are living longer.
- 1.3 At the 2011 Census, 19,140 people in Swindon (9.4%) reported they were providing some level of unpaid care, an increase of 23.7% compared to the 2001 Census. Carers UK estimate that in 2015 this figure had increased to 21,006, an increase of 33.6% since 2001.
- 1.4 People are wanting to live at home for longer and national and local policy is about helping people to help themselves rather than state intervention, this has a direct impact on Carers.
- 1.5 Understanding the needs of Carers in Swindon via a Carers JSNA gives a local context to the issues faced by carers and also inform a whole range of Swindon Borough Council and partner provision, policies and strategies including the development of a Carers Strategy and the NHS Memorandum of Understanding.

## 2. Recommendations

The Board is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note and approve the recommendations identified in the Carers JSNA Bulletin (attached at Appendix 1 to the report and as set out in section 3 below).

## 3. Detail

- 3.1 The objectives of the JSNA were to:
  - 3.1.1 Understand the current population structure of Carers in Swindon.
  - 3.1.2 Identify those Carers who have a priority need.
  - 3.1.3 Identify where a better service is required.

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- 3.2 The profile combines both quantitative and qualitative research. The qualitative information is drawn from a small survey conducted by Healthwatch Swindon and individual interviews.
- 3.3 At Appendix 1 is a bulletin of the findings. Below are the key messages and then recommendations. A copy of the full draft JSNA is available on request. The draft report was presented at the JSNA Steering Group on 16<sup>th</sup> August.

## Key Messages

- 3.4 Carers make a significant contribution to the health and care system, through the provision of unpaid care to relatives and friends. Therefore, supporting carers to maintain their caring responsibilities is key to a successful health and care system in Swindon.
- 3.5 Carers are a socially and demographically diverse group with differing caring roles, needs and support requirements. Their physical and mental health and attitudes to life are often shaped by their caring role. Planning for such a group requires flexibility and variation to capture this diversity.
- 3.6 Swindon Carers Centre is commissioned to provide a service for young carers, young adult carers, parent carers and adult carers. The total number of 'active' carers registered with the service in May 2017 was 3,863.
- 3.7 Overall, the number of cared for people has increased by 9% between 2014/15 and 2016/17. There is no data available on expected growth, however, with an ageing population and the projected growth in population it is anticipated that this figure will continue to increase.
- 3.8 Swindon Carers Centre data reports that most carers care for a relation, 28% of dependants are children of carers, 28% are spouses or partners and 29% are parents.
- 3.9 In Swindon, in 2011, 13.6% of the population aged 65 and over were providing some form of unpaid care, compared to 9.4% in people of all ages. These figures compare to 14.3% of people aged 65 and over in England as a whole. Of the 3,819 people aged 65 and over in Swindon providing unpaid care, 48% were male and 52% female. The health and wellbeing of older carers has been highlighted as an area of specific concern, poor health is more common amongst older carers with 73% of carers aged 80 plus having a disability or health issue compared to 48% of those aged 40 to 59 and only 13% of those aged under 18.

## Recommendations

- 3.10 The recommendations from the JSNA are as follows:

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- 3.10.1 Further investment in Young Adult Carers (YAC) Services – the transition from children to adult services is challenging, YAC need recognising in their own right.
- 3.10.2 To develop a Swindon Carers Strategy and action plan based on the findings and key messages from this report aligned to the Memorandum of Understanding.
- 3.10.3 Sign up by the Carers Leads group to implement and monitor the Swindon Carers Strategy – including key priorities such as: ill health, social isolation and crisis, retirement, bereavement, changes in caring role, coming home from hospital and first access of formal care and support and ensure interventions are targeted towards these.
- 3.10.4 It is recommended that the default position should be that every carer over 65 has an Emergency Card.
- 3.10.5 That the Pilot employer award standards has a full follow up report on findings and next steps.
- 3.10.6 Promotion of Carers Support Scheme. This is a fund that Carers can access but which is currently not being fully allocated.
- 3.10.7 To raise awareness of the specific needs of carers aged 85 and over and ensure services offered are appropriate and targeted.
- 3.10.8 Develop education, training and information sessions for carers across all age ranges through working with specialists in specific fields (Mental Health, Dementia etc.).
- 3.10.9 Build strong links with the provider of the Reducing Loneliness and Isolation contract in order to support carers who are experiencing this.
- 3.10.10 Ensure Young Carers are engaged in the Member of Youth Parliament and Youth Council work, specifically campaigns that support emotional health and wellbeing.
- 3.10.11 To gain a better understanding of the wider offer for Carers Breaks and how these are accessed, the impact and outcomes.

## **4. Alternative Options**

- 4.1 Ensuring support for carers is provided in line with local needs is essential in order to provide good value services. There is therefore no alternative option.

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## 5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

### Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial or procurement implications arising from this report. The Carers Support provision is currently out to Tender and a new contract will be awarded in November with a start date of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018. The findings of the needs assessment informed the specification for the contract.

### Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 There are no direct legal or human rights implications arising from this report.

### All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 There are no implications arising from this report.

### Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 A Diversity impact assessment has been completed.

### Risk Management

- 5.5 No specific risks have been identified at this stage for this report.

## 6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and the Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

## 7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None.

## 8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Carers Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Bulletin.