

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF A KEY DECISION CABINET

ITEM:	CARERS STRATEGY FOR HEREFORDSHIRE
Members Present:	Councillors: AW Johnson (Leader), H Bramer, D Harlow, J Lester, P Rone, N Shaw.
Date of Decision:	20 July 2017
Exempt:	No
Confidential	No
<p>This is a key decision because it is likely to result in the council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the council's budget for the service or function concerned. A threshold of £500,000 is regarded as significant;</p> <p>and</p> <p>This is a key decision because it is likely to be significant having regard to: the strategic nature of the decision; and / or whether the outcome will have an impact, for better or worse, on the amenity of the community or quality of service provided by the authority to a significant number of people living or working in the locality (two or more wards) affected.</p>	
<p>Notice has been served in accordance with Part 3, Section 10 (General Exception) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) Regulations 2012.</p>	
Urgency/Special Urgency: (As defined in Constitution)	No
Purpose:	To approve a new joint carers strategy for Herefordshire and agree consequent commissioning intentions for carers and procurement arrangements for commissioned services.
Decision:	<p>THAT:</p> <p>(a) the draft joint carers strategy for Herefordshire be approved;</p> <p>(b) the commissioning intentions at appendix 2 and the timetable for procurement of services for carers set out in paragraph 13 be approved; and</p> <p>(c) the director for adults and wellbeing be authorised to award contracts for carers services for a period of up to five years and a maximum combined value not exceeding £1.23m.</p>
Reasons for the Decision:	<p>Carers have long been identified as a priority population group by the council and its partners. They represent approximately 16.5% of Herefordshire's population according to the 2011 Health and Wellbeing Survey and they play a pivotal role in the local health and care economy. Some carers may require support to enable them to achieve their aspirations and continue in their caring role. The most recent carers strategy expired in 2015. Current contracted support services for carers will end in March 2018, so that newly configured services must be</p>

	<p>commissioned to begin in April 2018; a process which will start very shortly. The council has committed to involving carers directly in the design of new services. These new services should reflect the priorities in the strategy, which therefore should be published prior to the start of the procurement process.</p>
<p>Options Considered:</p>	<p>The option to not have a carers strategy. This option is not recommended since Herefordshire has published such a strategy until now and this is accepted as good practice nationally. Carers are a significant population group who are themselves vulnerable and support the most vulnerable people in society. Carers have contact with a very wide range of services and are vulnerable to economic, social and health risk factors. The issues facing carers are complex and require a whole system approach.</p> <p>The option to extend and continue the most recent carers strategy. This option is not recommended because there have been many changes in the wider context for carers in recent years. These include a new legislative framework provided by the Care Act 2014, the Children and Families Act 2014 and other legislation and guidance. In addition there have been changes in local social care provision and significant reductions in available resources. These changes have led to greatly increased focus on information and signposting, mutual support and self help, along with access to universal services.</p> <p>Delay finalisation of the strategy until after the forthcoming national carers strategy has been published. This option is not recommended because the timetable for publication of the national strategy has been repeatedly delayed. The original intention was that the Herefordshire strategy would be developed in the light of the national strategy, but its repeated delays have already caused issues for the local strategy. There is no firm timetable for publication of the national strategy.</p>
<p>Conflict of Interest ■ (See below):</p>	
<p>Date the key decision is due to take effect:</p>	<p>This decision is to be taken under the general exception provisions as set out in paragraphs 4.2.49-51 of the constitution of Herefordshire Council. It will be subject to call in</p> <p>27 July 2017</p>

<p>COUNCILLOR AW JOHNSON</p> <p>LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p>	<p>Date: 20 July 2017</p>
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■ a record of any conflict of interest declared by any executive member who is consulted by the member which relates to the decision;

And

- in respect of any declared conflict of interest, a note of dispensation granted by the relevant local authority's head of paid service.