

Full County Council

Item No:4

Report title:	Norfolk County Council Carers Charter Task and Finish Group
Date of meeting:	15 October 2018
Responsible Chief Officer:	James Bullion, Executive Director of Adult Social Services

Executive summary

Full County Council in October 2017, agreed a motion that recognised the invaluable contribution of informal carers and equally the challenges they face. As such, the Council agreed they deserved a fair deal, and agreed to develop a Carers Charter.

Nationally, the picture shows that three in every five people will become a carer at some point in their life and one in five carers gives up work to care. The number of unpaid carers has risen by 16.5% over the last fifteen years, outstripping general population growth (6.2%). It is anticipated that by 2037 the figure for carers will have grown to nine million.

In Norfolk, there are an estimated 99,419 unpaid adult carers who look after a family member or friend (Carers UK, 2015). Caring affects people from all walks of life, at all ages, living in the smallest village or the larger towns and cities.

Recommendations:

To endorse the Carers Charter and agree to promote the Charter to other organisations across the county.

1. Background

1.1 Norfolk County Council Carers Charter

1.1.1 Full County Council agreed to develop a Carers Charter with a particular focus on:

- Employers and carers
- Young carers
- Respite for carers – and how they are supported to continue to engage in community activities

1.1.2 A Task and Finish Group was established with an Independent Chair. The Group was made up as follows:

- William Armstrong, Independent Chair
- Cllr Graham Middleton (Children's Services Committee)
- Cllr Mike Sands (Adult Social Care Committee)
- Cllr Thomas Smith (replaced Cllr Martin Storey) (Adult Social Care Committee)
- Cllr Mike Smith-Clare (Children's Services Committee)
- Cllr Julie Brociek-Coulton, Carers Champion
- Ben Cawdron, Young Adult Carer
- Malcolm Court, Carer
- Jay Page, Carer

- Delores Williamson, Parent Carer
- Sallie Boyd, Young Adult Carer Support (Project Manager, Connects & Co.)

1.1.3 Over the course of five meetings, the Group has explored the three issues listed above (1.1.1) inviting input from specialists, looking at best practice, and visiting a nearby primary school to see the support for young carers in action. Additional external officer support was from Sharon Brooks, Chief Officer of Carers Voice Norfolk and Waveney (formerly known as Carers Council for Norfolk).

1.1.4 From this evidence gathering, a Charter has been developed and agreed by the Group and is now presented here to Full County Council for endorsement. The detailed report from the Task and Finish Group can be accessed here: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/-/media/F65CD9E5C6B143448C2D6E06ABF8C2FB>

1.1.5 The Chair of the Group William Armstrong will introduce the Charter at Full County Council and some of the carers who were members of the group will be attending the meeting.

1.2 Monitoring the impact of the Charter

1.2.1 The Charter has been developed in a way which sets out what carers have a right to expect and, as a result, what Norfolk County Council pledges to do.

1.2.2 It is proposed that both Adult Social Care Committee and Children's Services Committee consider the detailed report of the Task and Finish Group and ensure the pledges happen.

1.2.3 The Group is determined that the Charter will have impact beyond the County Council, and has asked the Council to lead the promotion of the Charter to other organisations, seeking more organisations to sign-up and to make their own pledges.

1.2.4 The Group has indicated it would be willing to re-convene in 2019 to review progress.

1.3 Recommendations for Full County Council

1.3.1 To endorse the Carers Charter and agree to promote the Charter to other organisations across the county.

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper or want to see copies of any assessments, e.g. equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

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