

# REPORT FOR DECISION

<b>Agenda Item</b>	
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<b>DECISION OF:</b>	Health Scrutiny / Cabinet
<b>DATE:</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> August 2013 / 18 <sup>th</sup> September 2013
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Carers Strategy for Bury 2013-2018 - Caring for Carers
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	Councillor Rishi Shori, Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Wellbeing
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Tracy Minshull, Head of Commissioning and Strategy, Adult Care Services
<b>TYPE OF DECISION:</b>	Cabinet - key decision
<b>FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:</b>	This report is within the public domain
<b>SUMMARY:</b>	<p>This report seeks approval for the draft Carers Strategy 2013-2018 and the supporting Equality Analysis. The strategy is owned jointly by the local authority and NHS Bury.</p> <p>Bury’s Carers Strategy 2013-2018 has been written in response to the national Carers Strategy (Recognised, Valued and Supported: Next Steps for the Carers Strategy, 2010). It pays particular regard to the four key areas prioritised by the Government and identifies how we will develop and improve services for carers within each.</p> <p>The Carers Strategy 2013-2018 supersedes Bury’s Carers Strategy 2009-2012 and has been written by members of the Carers Strategy Group.</p>
<b>OPTIONS &amp; RECOMMENDED OPTION</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approval of the Bury Carers Strategy 2013-18. The Carers Strategy Group will monitor the implementation of the action plan. This is the recommended option.</li> <li>2. Approval of the Bury Carers Strategy 2013-18 with amendments. Any proposed changes would need to</li> </ol>



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## **1.0 BACKGROUND** *[brief]*

1.1 The Government published Recognised, Valued and Supported: Next Steps for the Carers Strategy in 2010. The main vision for the national strategy is that carers are identified, acknowledged and supported to balance their caring role with other responsibilities.

1.2 The four main priorities cited within the national strategy are:

### Identification and recognition

Supporting those with caring responsibilities to identify themselves as a carer at an earlier stage and to recognise the value of their contribution.

### Realising and releasing potential

Enabling those with caring responsibilities to fulfil their educational and employment potential.

### A life outside of caring

Personalised support both for carers, and those they care for, enabling them to continue their family and community life.

### Supporting carers to stay healthy

Supporting carers to remain mentally and physically well.

## **2.0 ISSUES** *[brief]*

2.1 Consultation for this strategy took place over a three month period and included the following events/carers groups:

- § Questionnaires sent to 3,320 known carers (known to the Carers Centre and Bury Council's Carers Services Team. 397 questionnaires were completed and returned);
- § Consultation events in Bury, Prestwich and Whitefield;
- § Substance Misuse Carers Support Group;
- § Bury Carers Forum;
- § Rethink Mental Health Group;
- § Pinfold Lane Carers Group;
- § Carers Services Officers;
- § Male Carers Support Group;
- § Federation of Jewish Services;
- § Black and Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) carers;
- § GP Practice Managers.

2.2 The Bury Carers Strategy 2013-2018 has been developed in collaboration with a range of stakeholders and has sought to capture the range of views expressed. The following priorities will be developed in line with these views:

### *Information and advice*

The range of information required includes: information on the condition of the person they care for, advice about the support carers can access in their community, support on retaining employment and details on the Carers Assessments available.

### *Identification and referral*

Professionals do not always understand the caring role and what it means. Some carers felt they were not acknowledged by health and social care professionals and that they were not consulted on the care of the person they cared for.

#### *Respite*

Time away from the caring role was an issue that was discussed widely. We were told that current opportunities within day services and respite are not flexible enough. More opportunity to spend time away from the person cared for, whilst knowing that person is receiving high quality care, is an issue that requires a lengthy discussion.

#### *Data*

There are gaps in the data we hold about identified carers in Bury (this includes ethnicity and age). We have agreed an action within the carers strategy action plan to collect this data. We will be working with commissioned services to ensure this happens.

- 2.3 The outcome of the Equality Analysis shows that carers (current and future) will benefit from an increased awareness of the caring role and how it can support the person being cared for. The strategy will have a positive impact on carers by assisting their identification, ensuring they are aware of their rights and being signposted to appropriate services. Every effort is made to ensure equal access to carer support and services. By taking account of the needs of carers, services will become more inclusive and accessible.

Bury's Carers Strategy aims to create opportunities for creating robust partnerships with existing groups and services to help develop support networks for carers.

- 2.4 Any risk will be managed by the Carers Strategy Group. Although there is no new funding attached to the implementation of this strategy, the majority of the actions in the action plan will be achieved by greater partnership working and identifying new ways of working. Any financial implications will be discussed as part of the development of the action plan. It is important to note, however, that any financial implications would be managed within the carer's existing budget, but with no negative impact on assessed service provision.

### **3.0 CONCLUSION** *[brief]*

- 3.1 The Bury Carers Strategy 2013-2018 aims to ensure that carers are respected, that they have access to good quality information, they receive the services and support they need to care for their relative or friend and that they have a life of their own. A detailed action plan is currently being developed to underpin the delivery of the strategy. This will be monitored by the Carers Strategy Steering Group.

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#### **List of Background Papers:-**

1. Bury Carers Strategy 2013-2018
2. Action plan
3. Equality Analysis

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