

Summary

The Vision and Purpose of the Draft Carers Strategy 2024-27:

This strategy explains how adult social care and partner organisations will work together to support carers of all ages over the next 3 years. Carers make a valuable contribution to the lives of people with care needs. In West Berkshire we want carers to feel recognised, listened to and supported to enable them to carry out their caring roles should they wish to do so.

The Priorities

1. Raise awareness and increase the identification of carers (including hidden carers) to enable them to access help and support.	2. Provide information and advice to carers and young carers.	3. Enable access to Peer Support Groups for carers and young carers.	4. Carers are supported to improve their physical, mental, emotional and overall wellbeing.	5. Support carers and young carers to take breaks from caring.	6. Support a life outside caring to enable carers and young carers to achieve their potential.
<p>Raise Awareness Reading and West Berkshire Carers Partnership will continue to organise campaign events. The campaigns are to raise awareness of caring and the role of unpaid carers. Various events are organized during the year: National Carers Week (annual event in June) and Carers' Rights Day (annual event in November).</p> <p>Link up with Volunteer Centre, Community Centre, Newbury Library and Citizens Advice to make them aware of these events to promote among unpaid carers.</p> <p>Encourage carers who want to share their stories to do so. Stories can be recorded in audio, or video or translated into different languages.</p> <p>These stories will bring to light the significant contribution carers make and seeing them as experts and working in partnership with them.</p> <p>Identification of Carers Training package for both internal and external professionals and partners to enable them to recognise and identify unpaid carers and where to signpost them.</p> <p>Organise workshops to deliver the training. Provide information about how to access the training and course content.</p> <p>Identify and support carers from minority communities, travellers, refugees, asylum seekers. Liaise with Berkshire Volunteer Centre, Citizens Advice, Community Centre to reach out to 'hidden' carers.</p>	<p>Promotion of the West Berkshire Directory to residents and professionals'. There are plans to use the Accelerating Reform Funding grant to create a self-assessment service for unpaid carers by Summer 2024. Guidance will be provided to unpaid carers about completing the self-assessment service.</p> <p>To be able to access the carers self-assessment service carers must be digital literate.</p> <p>Promote and provide information about the Young Carers Card and Young Carers Newsletter for Young Carers in West Berkshire. The Newsletter is published quarterly. Presently the Young Carers Cards are not produced due to funding. We are currently reviewing this to see how we can support young carers.</p> <p>For Young carers social media, Facebook, Instagram pages are updated weekly. The Young Carers Newsletter is circulated widely (all schools in West Berkshire, Youth Centres and Library) so that young carers know where to get support and what the support entails. It is important for young carers to know the benefits of having the Young carers card.</p> <p>Partner organisations providing or publicising online resources, e.g. •Joy - Joy Social Prescribing Software (thejoyapp.com) •SHARON. •E-Learning. •Libraries. •Explore the growing potential of social media via the use of Twitter/Facebook to increase connectivity and highlight available support. Carers have access to good quality information in the carer journey when they need it.</p> <p>Adequate information for carers will continue to be provided through the Carers Partnership contact, and through Crossroads Care Oxfordshire and West Berkshire.</p> <p>Work with Communities to disseminate information about carers, offer advice and to ensure access from diverse communities. We are currently reviewing our translation and interpreting services.</p>	<p>Young Carers Service to continue providing support, advice to young carers.</p> <p>Opportunities for peer network and connections.</p> <p>Young carers are provided with the support they need to learn, develop and enjoying being a young person. Encouraging and Promoting Schools in West Berkshire to be active to take responsibility for Young carers in their settings.</p> <p>Recruiting Young Carer champions within schools.</p> <p>Signposting Adult carers to Peer support groups.</p> <p>Adult Social Care and the Carers Partnership can signpost carers to appropriate charities, voluntary and private organisations.</p>	<p>Raising awareness of the health impacts of caring.</p> <p>The Carers Partnership, General Practitioner Surgeries, Adult Social Care will help reinforce the importance of carers mental, physical, and emotional wellbeing.</p> <p>Carers will be followed up in writing after a carers assessment with a clear outcome. The assessment should include consideration of the impact on the caring role on the carer's mental, physical emotional and overall wellbeing.</p> <p>Improve support options for carers so that they can have time for their own appointments to get their own health checks done. Providing a sitting service to allow them time to get these done (this is subject to an individual carers assessment).</p>	<p>Working with Commissioners in Adult social care to look at the current offer around respite provision and direct payments for carers to enable them to access flexible short breaks and respite'.</p> <p>All school holiday activities for young carers.</p> <p>Honeyport Charity provides overnight respite breaks for young carers up to the age of 13 years.</p> <p>To safeguard against young carers providing inappropriate levels of care. Carers Assessments to be offered. No Wrong Doors procedures in place.</p> <p>Work with the Disabled Children's team to look at the current offer around respite provision and direct payments for parent carers.</p> <p>An assessment is offered to the parents /families for a Parent carer needs assessment by the Children with Disabilities Team. This is dependent on whether the parent meets the eligibility criteria.</p> <p>Supporting access to replacement care when necessary.</p> <p>To inform Adult Social Care as early as possible when this is necessary.</p> <p>Identifying sustainable arrangements.</p>	<p>Social Care professionals to recognise carers' right to life outside caring.</p> <p>Recognise transition points – becoming a carer, stopping a caring role, moving from being a young carer to an adult carer.</p> <p>Training opportunities through West Berkshire Consortium for Young carers.</p>