

REPORT TO: East Lothian Council

MEETING DATE: 18 December 2012

BY: Executive Director (Services for People)

SUBJECT: Carers Strategy Update

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update the Council on the development of the Carers Strategy and to highlight the integration of a Carers Forum and Champion into the Strategy.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Council note the progress made in developing the Strategy and the proposal for introducing a Carers Champion and Carers Forum.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The East Lothian Joint Planning group for Carers and Young Carers has been the driving force behind the development of the East Lothian Carers Strategy 2013-2018.
- 3.2 The new strategy for carers is being developed in line with Caring Together: The Carers' Strategy for Scotland 2010-2015
- 3.3 Work conducted by the Planning group members has included two workshop days to develop the Logic model in support of the Strategy Action Plan and regular Joint Planning group meetings to identify the resources and activities supporting carers in East Lothian. The group members have actively participated in drafting and reviewing the core documents. The Action Plan is directly linked to the East Lothian Single Outcome Agreement and the resources required to support the actions are identified across all agencies including third sector providers.
- 3.4 A key element of the local Strategy is to provide support to Carers to be heard in forums which determine the future shape of services. Specifically Carers have asked that they have an increasing dialogue

with those responsible for delivering and developing services in their support. The challenge is to increase dialogue without increasing the burden on carers who already have significant pressures to deal within their lives.

- 3.5 The Action plan identifies a number of local organisations tasked with supporting carers to be involved including Carers of East Lothian, East Lothian Young Carers, and the Community Planning Partnership Health & Social Care Theme Group.
- 3.6 A recent motion to Council has sought support for a Carers Champion to be identified who would be asked to work with carers and senior Council Officers to support local carers to ensure that they have a strong and effective voice at the heart of Council.
- 3.7 The development of a carers champion role is identified as an action within the strategy, as is the provision of a Forum.
- 3.8 It is proposed therefore that the detail of the identification of a Carers Champion and forum model will be provided as an action from the implementation of an approved strategy. It is anticipated the draft strategy will be presented to Cabinet/Council for consideration in February of next year.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no identified Policy Implications at this time

5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed and no negative impacts have been found.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – There are no financial implications at this time
- 6.2 Personnel - There are no personnel implications at this time
- 6.3 Other - None

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Carers Strategy Logic Model
- 7.2 Carers Strategy Action Plan draft
- 7.3 Equalities Impact Assessment

7.4 Caring Together: The Carers' Strategy for Scotland 2010-2015
(Members Library)

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