

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## Cabinet

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**Date of Meeting:** 3rd March 2015

**Report of:** Head of Corporate Resources and Stewardship

**Subject/Title:** Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee - Carers Task and Finish Group Report

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Janet Clowes, Care and Health in the Community

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### 1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report introduces the Carers Task and Finish Group's (the Task Group) Report on its findings, conclusions and recommendations following its review.

### 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet receive the Task Group's Report (attached).
- 2.2 That Cabinet note the Task Group's recommendations, which are contained in the attached report at page 14, paragraph 6.1.
- 2.3 That a response to the Task Group's report be submitted to the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee once the recommendations have been fully considered.

### 3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The Task Group was established to consider the range of implications for the Council of the Care Act and how the Council could change services to ensure it delivered better outcomes for carers. The Task Group's findings and recommendations suggest a number of principles to advise Cabinet and Officers and aid the development of future strategies and services.

### 4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All

### 5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All

### 6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 The Council is required to make changes to a variety of its policies as a result of new rules brought about by the Care Act 2014. The principles put forward in the Task Group's report should influence future policy on services for Carers and the Cared

for. The report also recommends the development of policy in relation to young carers and their transition to adult status.

## **7.0 Financial Implications**

7.1 Consideration of financial implications is not required at this stage.

## **8.0 Legal implications**

8.1 Consideration of the legal implications is not required at this stage.

## **9.0 Risk Management**

9.1 Many of the Task Group's findings are based on interaction with carers at various events and listening to what they would like to see in the development of support services. Failure to take the views of carers into consideration when developing strategies may result in services which do not address the needs of carers.

9.2 Failure to effectively support carers may result in more carers being unable to continue their caring role, therefore increasing the pressure on Council services to support people in care.

## **10.0 Background**

10.1 Prior to Council agreeing changes to its decision making and governance arrangements in May 2014, the Adult Social Care Policy Development Group (PDG) set up a sub group to look at the Council's Carers Policy and a Strategy which needed to be updated in anticipation for changes to the Council's responsibilities regarding carers, that were due to be introduced by the Care Bill. The sub group was set up following a PDG meeting in November 2013 where a report about the need to change the Carers Policy and Strategy was received and had the following membership:

- Councillor Margaret Simon (Chairman)
- Councillor Jos Saunders
- Councillor Laura Jeuda

10.2 At the Council's Annual Meeting on 14 May 2014 the Council decided to replace the previous scrutiny committee and policy development group system with a new Overview and Scrutiny Committee system. The responsibilities of the Adult Social Care PDG were taken up by the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee; the Committee decided to continue the work of the PDG's sub group by setting up a task and finish group with the same membership. The Care Act 2014 received Royal Assent on 14 May 2014 and many of the new requirements of the Council need to be implemented by April 2015.

10.3 The PDG sub group, which subsequently became the Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group (the Group), held several meetings over the previous twelve months, following a Carers Event held at Middlewich Community Church in November 2013, with a variety of officers to discuss a range of implications for the

Council of the Care Act and how the Council could change services to ensure it delivered better outcomes for carers and their cared for person.

10.4 Through the review the Group wanted to:

- Consider the changes in the legislative framework with the finalisation of the Care Bill and its impact on Carers
- Ensure that its review covered issues raised at the Middlewich event to show that they have been considered
- Support the future development of the Carers Strategy

10.5 The Group's report documents its findings, conclusions and recommendations.

## **11.0 Access to Information**

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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