

Children and Families Committee

Date of Meeting:	10 th July 2023
Report Title:	Progress Report for All Age Carers Strategy 2021 - 2025
Report of:	Shelley Brough, Acting Director of Commissioning
Report Reference No:	CF/45/22-23
Ward(s) Affected:	All

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1.** The All-Age Carers Strategy 2021-2025 is the overarching plan to ensure all carers receive the right support at the right time. The Strategy has been co-produced with adult carers, young carers, working carers, older carers and parent carers.

The All-Age Carers Strategy is the product of extensive engagement with carers and stakeholders which began in October 2020 and has included a carers forum, a stakeholder group, a public survey an engagement and consultation event for young carers and young adult carers. Feedback and ideas from the different interest groups has shaped the priorities and proposed actions in the strategy.

The strategy identifies six priorities to be taken forward over the next five years:

Health & Wellbeing • We will work across the place to ensure a diverse offer is available for our carers of all ages to stay healthy, well active and to have fun

Early Support for Carers • We will work together to ensure access to co-ordinated services that provide the right support at the right time. Across all sectors social care, health, and communities.

Prevention – Carer breaks/Respite • We will work with our providers and carers to look at how we can offer regular respite in different environments that are suitable to the carer and the cared for.

Information/Access/Processes • We will ensure that carers have access to good quality advice and support when they need it: a range of options are available to access information and advice to help build connections.

Employment, Education and Training • We will offer support for working carers through carer friendly employment, promoted in collaboration with the national Employers for Carers network.

Young Carers • We will ensure that young carers are identified at the earliest possible opportunity, so they are able to learn, develop and thrive and to experience a positive childhood.

The report provides members with an update on progress to further develop Cheshire East All Age Carers Strategy since presenting the strategy to committee in March 2021. This update will evidence how we have implemented the carer pathways through strong working partnership working with health, social care, adult social care commissioning, the voluntary, community and faith sector and embracing carers across all age groups including those over 18 years and disability groups.

Effective support for unpaid, informal, or family-based caring arrangements remains critical to the sustainability of our health and social care system and the success of commissioning of the all age carers hub **provided by** Making Space has, and will play a pivotal role in this. Also, the hospital discharge to home initiative to support carers designed to further shift the focus from acute interventions to care and support delivered closer to home.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That Committee note the progress details provided for the All-Age Carers Strategy 2021-2025. The All-Age Carers Strategy was published in September 2021.

Appendix A – All Age Carers Strategy 2021-2025

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1. The All-Age Carers Strategy plays an important role in ensuring that the Council meets its statutory duties under the Care Act and supports the choice and control of carers, thereby increasing their independence, choice and options and allowing health and wellbeing and young carers to thrive and develop and reach their potential.

Cheshire East carers are a diverse group. Improving the wellbeing of carers in Cheshire East and ensuring that all are offered the right support at the right time is a cross cutting priority that requires a whole system approach.

Below are some key local drivers that also outline on-going work to support carers.

4. Other Options Considered

5. Background

5.1 Recommission of the All Age Carers Service

Our Cheshire East carers played a significant role in choosing the new provider of the All-Age Carers Service. The providers who submitted their application for the bid were requested to present and demonstrate how they would support our carers.

They were interviewed by a cohort of carers on different days.

The groups of carers included were:

- Adult carers and working carers
- Parent carers
- Young carers and young adult carers

The above carers then scored each provider on a matrix following the conclusion of a question-and-answer session.

Making Space were the successful provider and they have been working closely with commissioners and carers to mobilise the service, which went live on 1st January 2023. The contact details and name remain the same 'Cheshire East Carers Hub' to avoid any confusion for those already previously registered.

Cheshire East Carers Hub Implementation Plan Appendix B

5.2 Development of All Age Carers Forum – The forum oversees the implementation plan and will challenge where progress has been slower than anticipated. There have been 6 carer forums held where updates have been shared, and these have been well attended by carers, who have had their voice heard at a strategic level.

The carers forum played an active role in the Learning Disability Conference held at Cranage Hall in June last year

The next carers forum will be held face to face at Sandbach Town Hall where the new all age carers service will be present to meet the carers and to celebrate Young Carers Week

5.3 Young Carers Forum

There are 3 forums for Young Carers

- All Hallow School
- Sandbach High School
- Alsager High School

These will be supported by the appointed young carer support officers within Cheshire East Carers Hub and CEC officers from children's services and the education team, working with young carer champions. A plan is also underway to ensure we have carer forums across the whole of the borough.

Information and Advice workshop was held on the 4th of October 2022

In attendance were carers, volunteers, health and social care professionals and commissioned services. Carers shared their experiences around information, advice and communication. Although it was hard to hear, it was loud and clear that there's plenty of systematic changes to be made to create better services and clearer pathways especially within the hospitals.

A map was developed of all the information that is available for carers across Cheshire East. When you hover over the map there is so much information, but when you look closer it seems to go round in a circle from the deliverers of services and not much to the actual carers. At the workshop you could see there was a lot of duplication of people doing the same thing and receiving the same information and sharing it with the same people. An action for the Cheshire East Carers Hub will be to lead on this to streamline and improve IAG for carers of all ages.

As Health and Social Care are becoming more integrated, you can see some improvement, however, for carers there must be a constant pressure and drive to ensure the momentum and the raising of awareness for all carers is constant in both areas.

Carers Info Map | Flourish Appendix C

5.4 **Identify Carers**

Carers need to be identified as early as possible to ensure that appropriate support, advice, and information are offered to them. Often carers only seek or are offered support once they reach a crisis point. Early identification can support the carer with the tools, knowledge, and confidence to enable them to manage their caring role, while still having a life of their own and maintaining their own health and wellbeing.

We need to ensure that parent carers are identified as carers and their support needs are recognised and met.

NHS Long Term Plan (Jan 2019) 23. This plan outlines a revised health model in which patients get more options, better support, and properly joined-up care at the

right time in the optimal care setting. Supporting carers is recognised as an important strand to this model.

To investigate and challenge the above statement a bid was submitted to NHS England to deliver a project to develop, test and evaluate a hospital discharge pathway for carers and raise general carer awareness amongst staff. The project was a collaboration of Cheshire East Council, Cheshire West and Chester Council, Mid Cheshire NHS Trust, with Cheshire East taking the lead

This took shape by engaging with key stakeholders to develop an integrated pathway, that would identify carers prior to discharge and signpost them for advice and support in preparation for discharge and once they were back home.

We opted to test out a digital approach to supporting carers, to overcome the challenges faced with trying to recruit specific Carer Champion roles for wards and the restrictions imposed by COVID 19. Following research of digital support that was available, we teamed up with Mobilise www.mobiliseonline.co.uk who currently deliver 21 contracts across the UK commissioned by Local Authorities, NHS and local carer support services. They provide online support and information for carers, empowering those that care to thrive.

The online resources developed and provided by Mobilise for carers focused on the following:

- Information and advice from others who had been through this process.
- Emotional & bespoke support available in the form of an individual support call with a 'Carers Coach' or via live chat on the website.
- The opportunity to "ask anything" as it was likely that situations will be individual, and solutions may be specific to local circumstances.
- Signposting to local support.

We identified a small number of wards at each of the three hospital sites where we could test out the new approach, focusing on those wards who supported older frail people to identify and signpost carers for support, in preparation for being discharged home.

Key themes that came out of engagement with carers and staff were the lack of information and support available for carers, poor communication with carers, and carers not knowing what to do when things didn't go as expected.

We developed a pathway to help guide staff through the process and know who and where to signpost carers to for support. Discharge Co-ordinators from the identified wards shared the contact details for the Mobilise website with the carer, or if they are not digitally enabled, they could directly book them a telephone support slot with Mobilise or give them the number for their local carers centre. For people being cared for with Dementia or cognitive impairment, the Discharge Co-ordinator would send the carers contact details to the Alzheimer's Society, where an officer would

follow them up with a phone call, offering to arrange a home visit or telephone appointment for an assessment, working with the carer to agree a support plan. They were also able to refer and signpost the carer and extended family to statutory services, voluntary services, Mobilise and to the relevant carers centre.

In addition to the referral pathway, we explored training for staff and tested out an e-learning package, to help staff better understand, involve and signpost carers for support.

We had positive feedback on the Mobilise website from both carers and staff, with 225 people visiting the site over the four-week testing period. Ward staff have actively been using the support pathway and providing carers and people being cared for with signposting information.

Learning that can be taken away from this project.

- It is essential to involve carers at the earliest opportunity in the discharge process.
- The way that a person is asked the question about whether they are a carer is important, as many carers don't recognise themselves as carers or as needing support, and don't reach out until they reach crisis.
- Carer awareness is essential for staff and should be a core part of their induction and training.

From a carer's perspective, we received the following feedback:

"Thank you so much for the website link it has been invaluable in learning about how to navigate mums care in the UK from here!"

Daughter of Hospital Patient, living in Canada.

"Thank you, I have checked it out, could be useful if Dad ends up in hospital again."

Daughter/Carer for Dad living at home.

"Thanks for the link, can never have enough information."

Carer/Husband.

"It's good to know there are sites like this for when we feel lost, my daughters are helping me have a look through while my husband is in hospital."

Carer/Wife.

The learning from this project will be shared across the other wards in the hospitals that care for older people and with community teams who support people at home following their discharge from hospital.

Trust Discharge Project Report - Appendix D

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5.5 Carer Awareness

Cheshire East All Age Awareness E-Learning Module – This has been co-produced with carers from Cheshire East. It consists of two modules, adults, and young carers. On completion successful candidates will wear their carers champion badge with pride.

Most of the hospital discharge teams have completed the training as have the front-line social work team. They have used the training as part of their continuation of their registration status.

Prompt cards have been devised to encourage junior doctors and other therapy teams, including social prescribers to ask the question ‘have you identified a carer?’

There has been a 30% increase in carers being registered as a carer within their G.P practice.

Health and Social care students have completed the e-learning and are Carer Champions.

[Monthly progress report 2-20230515_101607233.xlsx](#)

<https://cheshireallagecarers.astute-elearning.com/>

5.6 Hospital Discharge to Home Scheme / Carers – October 2022 – Present

Due to the current crisis within the NHS and Winter Pressures we needed to start exploring options and solutions to alleviate some of the pressures and free up hospital bed capacity quicker but more importantly reach out to our unpaid carers via the Carer Hospital Discharge to Home Scheme, a one-off incentive payment can be paid to an unpaid Carer (family/friend) to support them in their caring role upon discharge

- To create space in the current Care Market, safely
- To support the Integrated Discharge Teams at Macclesfield and Leighton Hospital to free up hospital bed capacity.
- To support and recognise the Carers of Cheshire East.
- To identify hidden Carers in Cheshire East.

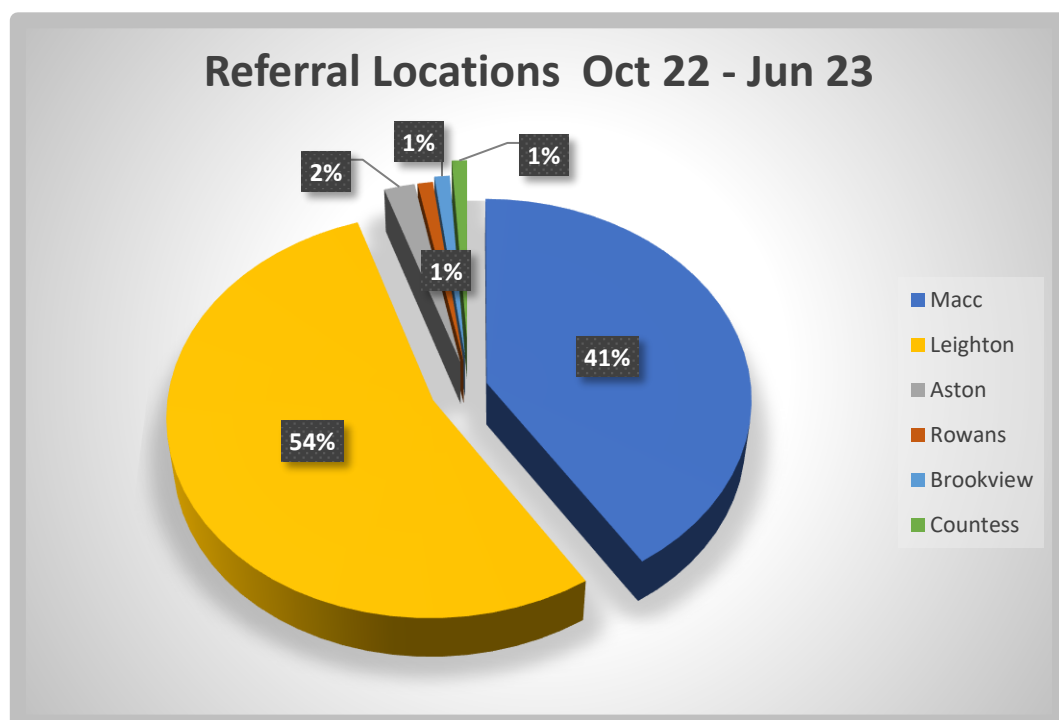
The scheme is aimed at patients who are ready for hospital discharge but need some support to recover or recuperate, which could be met through informal care, either entirely or alongside reduced formal support, which helps to:

- Reduce delayed discharges and free up hospital bed capacity
- Reduce the need for formal care at home and short stays
- Support Reablement packages and help to reduce their input
- Support the Integrated Discharge Team and become an integral part of the discharge pathway
- Support informal Carers in their role by paying them a one-off incentive payment

This has been a huge success and, to 15/06/2023 we have received 121 referrals into the scheme,

DISCHARGE LOCATION	Referral Numbers
Macclesfield Hospital	40
Leighton Hospital	53
Aston Ward	2
The Rowans	1
Brookview	1
Elmhurst	
CE DTA Bed	
Countess Bowmere	1
TOTAL	98

** 30 of the referrals above are currently at the 'Pending' stage



As of 15/06/2023, 23 referrals have declined the support offered under the scheme. This is mainly due to declining patient health, a change in care needs and moves to 24-hour care, and those that felt they were managing okay at the moment but may want to engage in support at a later date and were appreciative of the offer.

As a result of this all 'Declined Referrals' will be revised at a determined point during the Scheme to see if circumstances have changed and support is now required.

A Dashboard is currently being developed to show referral numbers received, Hospital and Community locations of these referrals, KPIs vs performance and budget vs actual spend. It will also track trends identified for our different carer cohorts.

The demographics of our referrals will also be closely monitored to identify the footprint and LSOAs, and barriers to service deprivation which is predominantly in rural areas and can indicate limited or no public transport and social isolation.

Hospital Discharge to Home Scheme / Carers - Appendix E

Comments from carers and health professionals regarding the scheme

"This scheme has been pivotal in supporting discharges from East Cheshire NHS Trust since it started in January. It provides a truly person-centred approach and offers support to carers so that they can continue caring. Jill and her team are the driving force behind this and never miss an opportunity to promote this amazing offer!"

Debbie Burgess - Deputy Associate Director Community Services

"Thanks for getting in touch as it shows he has not been forgotten about and people have his interest at heart. The information provided by yourselves was a great help"

Male Carer for his Dad who was supported by the scheme

"I could cry, you really don't have to do that. It's been so hard and that's the nicest thing that's happened to me. I feel like I'm constantly battling with someone to get what my mum needs and it is exhausting"

Female Carer for her Mum who was supported by the scheme

"I don't know what you did or said but I feel like we have made great progress today. Thank you once again for your help - I can't tell you how much our family appreciate it"

Carer / daughter to mum

Oh goodness, this has helped, it is such hard work and I feel as if no one notices me. The care service has got back to me, I'm now registered with my doctor too.

Working Carer for her Mum who was supported by the scheme

I have had to finish work as a paid carer to care for my husband who has at last come home. My five children are so good, they help me and their dad, I just need support for my 15yr old who is struggling with school currently and housing are going to visit, at last!

Young Mum caring for her husband and 5 children between the age of 7 to 18

5.7 Working Carers

It is estimated that 5 million people juggle work and care in the UK - 1 in 7 in every workplace - and this figure is set to increase. Given the stresses and strains that can result from balancing work and caring, it is unsurprising that 1 in 6 carers give up work or reduce their hours at work to care.

We have worked closely with CEC Human Resource team and have collated an information and advice section for our CEC working carers on the Centranet.

We are currently looking at the Working Carers Policy to see if we need to enhance the offer we currently have. We have encouraged managers to reach out to working carers within their PDR and supervision sessions.

We have developed a school's guide for working carers and been commended by our trade unions.

We held a Support session for staff in September 2021 with over 30 officers including managers on the call. Another session is planned for June 2023.

The 'Coffee and Chat Sessions' with our CEO in Westfields have been very well received, the first one was 7th March, and a further session is planned over the coming weeks.

The Working Carers Policy within CEC – is nearing completion. We are working jointly with CEC HR department, and it will be linked to PDR's and supervisions.

School guide for Working Carers – Appendix F

5.8 Male Carers

More than four in ten (42%) of the UK's unpaid carers are male. The report 'Husband, Partner, Dad, Son, Carer?' investigates the experiences and needs of male carers to help raise awareness of the fact that male carers may not be getting the support they need.

- Employers and health and social care professionals need to be aware that male carers in employment are less likely to identify or describe themselves as a carer to others. Their need for support may not therefore be immediately obvious and might result in them missing out on vital help.
- Awareness raising is needed of the caring role many employed men undertake, and the support available to them. Employers need to have, and make sure all staff are aware of policies to support carers at work.
- Support needs to be developed in a practical, supportive and non-stigmatising way for men taking on caring roles, particularly later in life, who may find aspects of domestic work difficult if they have previously been done by the person they now care for and for men providing intimate or personal care for women.

[Male carers: Husband, Partner, Dad, Son, Carer? | Men's Health Forum \(menshealthforum.org.uk\)](https://menshealthforum.org.uk)

Within CEC we have connected with some male carers, and they have shared their experiences.

A working group has been developed and this has provided an opportunity for us to listen, hear and try and understand the pressures and concerns.

We have played an integral role in a two Domestic homicide reviews where male carers have been at the centre of this situation.

Adults Delivery Plan – Appendix G

5.9 Young Carers

The recent consultation and engagement event, concluding with a report with our young carers and professionals considers the specific experience of young carers and the needs they present. We will commit to ensuring the support available to them is appropriate, tailored and readily accessible.

Making Space are the new commissioned All Age Carers Hub for Cheshire East, they started on 1st January 2023; along with the senior programme lead and the children's and family service representative. We meet on a fortnightly basis to support the new contract going forward.

A young carer co-ordinator and two young carer assessors were recruited in June 2023 within CEC Children and Families, and they will work collaboratively with Cheshire East Carers Hub supporting all young carer assessments.

Our vision is that young carers feel supported and confident to say that they are a young carer. They are identified, recognised, valued, and supported, to be protected from providing inappropriate care, to achieve their full potential, and to have access to the same opportunities as their peers. They have a strong voice that results in services that work for them, and we hear their voice when the responsibility of caring is not their choice. Across the system, staff have the tools, skills and knowledge to increase identification of young carers, enable young carers to self-identify and provide the right support to young carers and their families.

Values

- We are 'young carer' focused, ensuring they are considered in every service and by every individual
- We have a whole family approach, meaning we support the young carer in the context of what the wider family needs
- We provide the right support at the right time for young carers, in their community, recognising their needs before they escalate
- We focus on continuous improvement in our services for young carers, ensuring that we provide the best support possible
- Our services will promote inclusivity and diversity Strategic Priorities
- Increased awareness, visibility and support of young carers in education, health and social care

- Training for improved identification of young carers and a whole family approach
- Improved transfer of information
- Consider young carers in any system change
- Staff have a good understanding of young carer's rights and young carers and their families have the tools they need to advocate for themselves
- Ensuring that young carers and their families feel able to request a young carer's assessment and staff have the skills to put them in place
- Championing young carer's rights
- Transition to adult services
- Young carers are enabled to and feel safe to self-identify
- Young carers have access to appropriate services that meet their needs
- Information and peer support for young carers
- Young carers have improved Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health (EWMH) 12
- Young carers safeguarding needs are identified and supported
- Appropriate referrals made for early help to avoid any escalation and preventing the threshold of 'significant harm' being reached

The Hospital Discharge Scheme is identifying many young carers as part of families and carers own wider networks. For example, one main unpaid carer identified from Leighton Hospital had 4 young carers supporting as well and they were all part of the same family. None of these unpaid carers had been identified or supported previously and the scheme was able to provide that wrap around support and single point of contact (SPOC) which will be invaluable for all their future caring roles.

Young Carers Delivery Plan - Appendix H

5.10 Covid -19 Young Carers – Ongoing Appendix J

Working with partners to identify Young Carers who could experience hidden harm due to their caring role, such as Mental Health, substance abuse, domestic abuse. Pathways were adjusted to include YCs as vulnerable in February 2022 with CGL, our substance misuse commissioned service.

During the Covid 19 pandemic, 73% of YCs reported feeling more anxious, isolated, and lonely. They fear catching the virus and passing on to family members.

Young Carers accessing A&E services with self-injurious behaviours to be identified and signposted for support. Young carers included in pathways dealing with self-harm.

The Hospital Discharge Carers Scheme, that went live in February 2023 has identified 12 young carers during the start of the scheme, there was also a safeguarding concern. 6 of those identified were referred to the scheme via Accident

and Emergency and 1 from a home visit where we worked closely with education to support that young individual.

5.11 **Schools**

An action plan to work closely with schools and education to raise the profile of young carers is beginning to take shape. The drive, commitment and enthusiasm from the Director of Strong Start, Family Help and Integration needs to be commended.

We will ensure all staff complete the all age carer awareness training and become carer champions, commencing September 2023. The training will raise the profile of young carers and encourage staff to recognise the following and what steps to take:

Who are young carers?

Do you have pupils that are...

- Absent from lessons
- Struggle to take part in after school activities or trips
- Late with homework
- Tired or distracted
- Concerned about keeping their phone on, or staying in touch with a family member during school hours

Census 2021

- One in 5 secondary aged pupils estimated to have caring responsibilities
- 22% said they 'never' or do 'not often' have someone at school to talk to about being a young carer or young adult carer
- Young carers have significantly lower educational attainment at GCSE level – the difference between nine Cs and nine Ds

We have worked closely with the mental health lead for CE schools within education and we have added a question to the mental health review, '*Are you a carer?*' This is across all schools within Cheshire East, young carers have been referred via this pathway to the carer's hub

Alsager School has a young carer representative, and we can see how well this works, supporting young carers.

There has been a thematic session held at the school during assembly on young carers and we plan for this to happen across all the schools to raise the awareness of young carers.

A piece of work to involve school nurses to support and identify young carers, will take place in September 2023, there are some excellent school nurses across our Cheshire East Schools, so we need to ensure this is replicated across the whole of the borough. We are planning to set up a buddy system across schools. They will automatically refer into the Cheshire East Carers Hub to be registered when a young carer is identified. This will be part of the action plan starting in September 2023. School Nurses will also complete the All Age Carer Awareness Training.

Cheshire East Carers Hub will visit schools to raise awareness for young carers. This will form part of the action plan for September 2023. Already the cares hub are attending children's team meetings to introduce themselves and offer their support and share what their offer is.

An updated one-minute guide has been produced and circulated across adult and children's health and social care.

Following on from a restructure within health there will be support from a project manager to support the all age carers agenda.

Young carers forums to be led by Cheshire East Carers Hub and a lead officer from Children's team and education. Young Carer Champions to be identified following the All Age Carer Awareness e-learning for all staff. Now we have the young carer co-ordinator and two young carer assessor officers they will link in with the cares hub and schools to promote and encourage the young carers forums. A communication plan regarding this is being drafted in conjunction with the carer's hub and CEC children and family's team.

As already mentioned, Cheshire East carers hub went live on the 1st January 2023, weekly mobilisation meetings have taken place, these will be moved to quarterly and there will be a representative from adults and children's team joining the group.

A follow up session with the young carers who supported in the co-production of the All Age Carers Strategy has taken place, April 2023, via face to face and telephone contact. Some of the young carers stated that their caring role has increased and there is more pressure on them as they have moved from mainstream school to college.

Action:

We have met with Crewe College and Cheshire University and the All Age Carer Awareness Training has now formed part of the health and social care training department, not only to identify young carers but to ensure all carers are at the fore front in all that they do.

The college and university will start to have a carers board to support all carers and be able to sign post

This is also happening within the two hospitals in Cheshire East.

Meetings planned for July 2023 with all social prescriber who work within G.P practices, one of their actions is to ensure there is an all age carers board with current information. They will also identify young carers and ensure they are registered as a carer on the Emis system. Waters Green Medical Centre have been exemplar regarding carers, and we have just awarded all of their social prescribers their carer champion badge. Using this good practice, we will encourage practices to become buddies so they can support each other.

5.12 Operations Team

The Senior Programme Lead supports all the Operations Team within Adults and Children's Services. Working closely on individual cases where there is a carer involved. Since October 2021 there have been over 68 cases where carers have been supported.

Comments from the team:

"The involvement from a carers support perspective changed the working dynamics between the local authority and carers in a positive manner"

"I feel that the carer felt valued and respected, she had someone to discuss her concerns with and work through some of the challenges she faced, before becoming reactionary with her actions"

"This created more positive working relationships and kept her son and his best interests as the main focus throughout"

"We did recognise how powerless she must have felt at times when the local authority had taken on some of the aspects of the caring role away from her e.g., Nearest Relative, however since the introduction of your input I do believe she felt included with any decisions made which is vitally important to her and any mother when their child's future needs are been considered"

"Your focus helped to remind her of the importance of self-care and to consider her own needs away from the caring role"

Mental Health Practice Manager CEC

"A big emphasis on building up confidence regarding the input of the local authority and valuing her input as a carer, your input improved the working relationship which had become fractured previously. The carer began to build a routine based around well-being, relaxation and self-care with the range of services offered for carers"

"You offered mediation when needed and the outcome was recognised as very positive. The carer no longer felt she had to fight to get what she thought her son needed, communication was improved, and this had a great beneficial impact upon the whole family"

CEC Social Worker

Recent Activities with our Cheshire East Young Carers

Cheshire East Carers have been working closely with local organisations, youth clubs and schools to support our young carers with activities. They wanted to share some of the activities with committee members.



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6. Implications

6.1. Legal

- 6.2.** The Care Act ensures that Carers have as many rights for support as those they care for. For those assessed as having eligible needs, authorities are required to provide advocacy and personal budgets.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted>

Local Authorities must have regard to Carer participation in education, training and recreation The Care Act ensures that Carers have as many rights for support as those they care for.

The Care Act 2014 also makes specific provision for Young Carers in the transition from children to adult's services

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted> 1.3.3

6.3. Finance

- 6.3.1.** The All-Age Carers Hub is funded in full via the Better Care Fund.

6.4. Policy

- 6.4.1.** The All-Age Carers Hub provides a strategic approach to addressing the support and services for carers in Cheshire East.

6.5. Equality

- 6.5.1.** An Equality Impact Assessment is available.

6.6. Human Resources

There are direct implications arising from the strategy itself.

6.7. Risk Management

6.8. Rural Communities

We have linked closely with the rural communities and the hospital discharge to home scheme has assisted our carers who live in the rural areas of Cheshire East. The incentive has been able to support carers to reach out to their wider family and tap into support around carer respite for paying for fuel costs and using the internet. Commissioned care at home providers have difficulty in recruiting staff and deliver services in these areas.

Access to community-based support is particularly useful for carers in rural communities who may find it harder to access support networks and public transport. Making Space will link in with our rural communities to seek further support for our carers.

6.9. Children and Young People/Cared for Children

- 6.9.1.** This is a progress report on all age carers.

6.10. Public Health

- 6.10.1.** Carers provide a huge amount of care and support in for their loved ones in the community. Public Health offers the opportunity for carers and the public to obtain greater reassurance through knowing that they would be supported around their health and wellbeing programmes. The hospital discharge to home scheme for carers.

6.11. Climate Change

- 6.12.** The hospital pilot carried out in October worked with a digital organisation called Mobilise who sought to support carers across the whole of Cheshire. Making Space are now working with Mobilise to improve the digital offer for our carers. This came about when our carers asked questions to the providers submitting their bid to become the new All Age Carers Service around how they would support the environment now and in the future. This was pretty evident from our young carer's questions and answer session that this was very important to them.

- 6.13** During the tender process, Making Space committed in their bid to embedding Cheshire East's social value environmental priorities into their service provision, by incorporating numerous mitigations/measures.

These included:

- Minimising environmental waste
- Reducing food wastage by donating unused food to the Cheshire East food network, developing their recycling systems
- Promoting sustainable travel at every opportunity aiming to reduce pollution, especially pollution by ozone depleting substances and vehicle emissions
- Making Space staff/volunteers will enrol onto the "We are Cheshire East" portal to support other initiatives such as the Cheshire East Waste Reduction Programme
- Running their own greenspace initiatives for carers/cared for and staff including funding Earth Day activities/party games e.g., plant potting parties, Earth Day art projects, recycle games (young carer friendly). We will pledge to join the Cheshire East Crowd to crowdfund such initiatives through Spacehive, alongside support from our in-house fundraising team
- Investing in volunteer/support worker hours to support the Cheshire East Green Space Strategy e.g., contribute hours towards the Green Infrastructure Action Plan in Crewe, partaking in composting, tree planting and river/street cleaning

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Jill.stenton@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	Appendix A – All Age Carers Strategy 2021-2025 Appendix B - CECH Implementation Plan

OFFICIAL

	Appendix C - Carers Info Map Flourish Appendix D – Trust Discharge Project Appendix E – Our Cheshire Hospital to Home Scheme April Appendix F – School Guide for Working Carers Appendix G – Adults Delivery Plan Appendix H – Young Carers Delivery Plan Appendix I – Action Plan for Parent Carers / SEND Appendix J - CEC Young Carers Findings Recommendations Report
Background Papers:	