

# **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

## **REPORT TO: Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

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**Date of Meeting:** 5 February 2015  
**Report of:** Head of Corporate Resources and Stewardship  
**Subject/Title:** Carers Task and Finish Group Final Report – Cover Report  
**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Janet Clowes

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### **1.0 Report Summary**

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

### **2.0 Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Committee consider the Task and Finish Group's report for approval.

### **3.0 Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 Any report from a Task and Finish Group of a Scrutiny Committee must be approved by the Scrutiny Committee before being submitted to the appropriate body.

### **4.0 Wards Affected**

- 4.1 All

### **5.0 Local Ward Members**

- 5.1 All

### **6.0 Background**

- 6.1 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

- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 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
- 6.5 The Group's report documents its findings, conclusions and recommendations.

## **7.0 Access to Information**

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

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