Sandwell
Health & Wellbeing Board

DMT & Health and Wellbeing Board

16th and 30th June 2021

"Better Lives for Carers in Sandwell"

Joint Carers Strategy
and Delivery Plan 2021-2025

[IL0: UNCLASSIFIED]

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Why do we need a new Joint Carers Strategy?

The previous Strategy covered 2012-2015

Carers National Action Plan and NHS Long Term Plan

The previous Census (2011) identified around 30,000 people in Sandwell having a informal caring role

Almost a third of these carers are providing over 50 hours of support per week

The latest Census (2021) is expected to show a 7,000 increase, especially in carers aged over 50s, with 1,600 more

A JOINT Strategy that positively shares the responsibility of supporting Carers amongst the Council, CCG, Health Trusts, Voluntary and Community Sector and local businesses / employers.

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COVID19 has not just delayed the publication of our Strategy for Carers

We have some early evidence but need to fully understand the impact of COVID19 on the most vulnerable groups in Sandwell

Instead of delaying the publication of the 2021 -2025 Strategy further, we are proposing to hold a review and refresh 12 months in – We don't want to wait until 2025

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Summary of the Sandwell Joint Carers Strategy 2020-2024:

9 promises for Carers in Sandwell

1 Awareness and Diversity

All partners will work to raise the profile of Caring within Sandwell and to ensure that under represented carers voices are heard and supported

"We need to know if we are carers and where to get support from"

Key outcome:
Carers identify as carers and all carers voices are heard.

2 Information, Advice & Assessment

Carers within Sandwell will have quicker and easier access to effective support including crisis and respite support, to meet their needs and prevent their needs increasing

"We need quick assessment and support to prevent our needs escalating"

Key outcome:
Carers are identified earlier, and their needs assessed earlier, so they are supported quicker

3 Workforce

The Council and its other Statutory Partners will continue to train and develop its staff to identify carers and signpost them to appropriate support

"Workers need to be more aware of the individual needs of different carers, and listen to us"

Key outcome:
Carers feel well supported by staff in NHS, Social care and Schools

4 Carers Health & Wellbeing

Carers in Sandwell will be supported to look after their own physical health and mental wellbeing

"We need time for a rest as we are often exhausted and stressed"

Key outcome:
Carers are healthy, well and independent for longer

5 Employment & Financial Wellbeing

Carers within Sandwell will be supported to remain in, and return to, employment, education and training and will feel supported to access benefits to prevent hardship

"We need support to live well throughout caring and provide for ourselves in the long term"

Key outcome:
Caring families, young carers, young adult carers and parent carers feel supported.

6 Living Well in the Community

Carers in Sandwell will be supported to access community al support they are entitled to, to address loneliness and bereavement issues

"We can feel trapped and lonely. We need bereavement counselling and more care planning so the

Key outcome:
Carers access their local community to feel less lonely and a part of their surroundings

7 Managing & Reducing Risk of Carer Breakdown

Carers will be supported to reduce risk of crises and manage crises

A lot of people rely on carers – if that's taken away it puts more pressure on the NHS"

Key outcome:
Carers continue to cope and less risk of illness and safeguarding.

8 Supporting Young and Parent Carers

Young carers within Sandwell will be supported to have the same opportunities as other children and young people and in addition the needs of Parent Carers will be identified

"We need to know who to contact and what support is out there – we also need support when we, or our children grow into adults"

Key outcome:
Young and Parent Carers feel supported

9 Innovation & Best Practice

Support for Carers in Sandwell will be commissioned based on evidence and best practice as well as feedback from Carers as Experts by Experience

" Carers need to feedback on their support and need good quality services"

Key outcome:
Carers feel listened to and supported

9 Local Promises Based around 5 key themes identified in the Carers National Action Plan

Result of significant engagement with Carers

6,000 Carers views included within the National Consultation and Carers UK State of Caring Report

300 Local carers views represented including Young and Parent Carers, Carers of people with Mental Ill Heath and BME Carers.

200 Carers engaged by Healthwatch

60 By West Bromwich African Caribbean Resource Centre

12 Local Carers Strategy Group Meetings

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Carers Health & Wellbeing

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Employment & Financial Wellbeing

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Key outcome: Caring families, young carers, young adult carers and parent carers feel supported.

Living Well in the Community

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Carers in Sandwell will be supported to access community al support they are entitled to, to address loneliness and bereavement issues

"We can feel trapped and lonely. We need bereavement counselling and more care planning so the person we care for is looked after in future"

Key outcome: Carers access their local community to feel less lonely

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Managing & Reducing Risk of Carer Breakdown

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Key outcome: Carers continue to cope and less risk of illness and deterioration in their own wellbeing.

Supporting Young and Parent Carers

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"We need to know who to contact and what support is out there – we also need support when we, or our children grow into adults"

Key outcome: Young and Parent Carers feel more supported

Innovation & Best Practice

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Next Steps & Recommendations

1. Note the progress of the Joint Carers Strategy and provide any comments it or its members may have to be considered for the final draft

2. Endorse the 9 Promises for Carers in Sandwell as a framework for the final strategy document

3. Endorse that the Joint Strategy be presented to Health and Wellbeing Board in August for final sign off.

4. Endorse plans to review the Strategy in 12 months to build upon the learning coming out of COVID19 in relation to the experiences of carers.

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…. and to the carers and representatives of all the partner organisations in Sandwell who have contributed to the development of the Strategy. We hope they will be part of ensuring this Strategy brings real improvements in the lives, experiences and support to carers in Sandwell.