

# BRIEFING TO OLDHAM HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

## Report Title: Oldham Carers' Strategy 2018 - 2021

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### What the issue is:

The previous Oldham Carers' Strategy covered 2012 – 2014 and the decision was taken to delay production of a new strategy for a number of reasons, including external factors such as the implementation of the Care Act 2014 and the production of the national carers' strategy. This new strategy has now been developed for 2018 – 2021.

### Requirement from the Health and Wellbeing Board:

To approve the strategy, and support its promotion and achievement as we deliver against it over the next three years.

### Background / Current Position:

#### Development & Consultation

The Oldham Carers Partnership Board directed that the Oldham Carers Strategy should be coproduced with carers at all stages of its production, including agreeing the priority areas and delivery of the outcomes.

Carers were identified as one of four priority themes for the Greater Manchester Health & Social Care Partnership and the Adult Social Care Transformation Programme. The aim being to re-shape the current offer and support available to unpaid carers, including Young Carers, across Greater Manchester.

The Greater Manchester Carers Charter was produced (with input from Oldham Carers) and six key principles were set out to improve the offer for carers as a whole. It was these six principles which formed the basis of the Oldham strategy and the consultation with Oldham carers.

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Early identification of carers           | 4. Carers as Real and Expert Partners |
| 2. Getting the right help at the right time | 5. Young Carers                       |
| 3. Improving health and Wellbeing           | 6. Carers in Employment               |

An extensive consultation process was held between November 2017 and January 2018. Over 2,800 carers were invited to take part by completing a questionnaire and/or attending a focus group. All carers groups in Oldham took part. There were responses from 438 carers by post and 33 carers attended the focus groups.

The carers strongly agreed that the six principles were appropriate, and carers' input was used to inform the content of the strategy.

Each draft of the strategy has been reviewed at every stage of development by carers and in a number of forums involving a range of partners. This includes the Carers Partnership Board, the CCG Carers lead, Positive Steps (who deliver Young Carers services), and carers groups. The strategy has also been reviewed by Adults and Children's DMT and by the Oldham Council Senior management team.

## **Impact**

The strategy demonstrates an integrated approach to health & social care across Oldham. We will ensure the outcomes of the strategy are implemented effectively by working together across the many statutory, voluntary and community organisations in Oldham that come into contact with, and support carers.

The strategy also demonstrates local commitment to working closely with our sub regional partnerships to ensure that the local carers offer incorporates and represents good practice, and that positive local learning is shared more widely.

The strategy outlines the objectives and actions required to deliver outcomes across the six priority areas.

This strategy recognises that improvements in carer support will not only contribute to improved health and wellbeing for those with caring responsibilities, but will also help the local health and social care economy rise to the challenges of a changing local population.

## **Recommendations:**

To approve the strategy, and support its promotion and achievement as we deliver against it over the next three years.