



	Page
INDEX	
Foreword	2
Introduction	4
Executive Summary	5
Carers in Wirral	6
Survey of Adult Carers in England 2021 / 2022 Wirral	11
What has been achieved since the Wirral Carers Strategy 2014 – 2017?	13
What Wirral Carers told us is important to them	15
What you told us and what we have prioritised – Priorities 1- 6	17
Parent Carers caring for Children with additional needs	23
Young Carers and Young Adult Carers	26
Working Carers	27
Next Steps and Measuring Success	28
Acknowledgements	29
Background Papers and References	30



FOREWORD

Wirral Council appreciates and respects the contribution that Carers make in our community.

People who give their time and energy to provide support and care to someone else is amongst one of the most selfless gestures and actions someone can make, whether the care they provide is out of love, because of care and concern, or because they have a sense of duty to provide an individual with support. Each person's caring situation and their role is different; caring for someone can be for an intense short period of time if you are caring for someone who has acute ill-health, or it can be for many years if the person's condition remains the same or they have a slowly degenerating condition.

Whatever the caring situation is, it is most important that Carers are recognised in our society, at an early stage in their caring role, and offered information, advice, and support to ensure that they are well informed. Implementation of this strategy will assist Carers to overcome barriers to access the right support and at the right time, to avoid the challenge of seeking support when there is a crisis or Carer breakdown, or not knowing where or who to turn to, or being overwhelmed by the prospect of having to wade through a maze of information about services and support.

The Wirral Carers Strategy has been co-produced with groups of Wirral Carers, who gave their time to identify what is important to them and share their experiences and knowledge. Carers were able to tell us about the times they felt they had to navigate the health, social care, and education system, and they provided examples of where they had received the support that they needed and when they hadn't.

The Carers Co-production events took place in various venues across the Wirral and were primarily face to face, however, a few sessions took place virtually through Teams meetings.

Your contribution has been valuable to help to shape the Wirral Carers Strategy.

Carers want to feel they are being supported, listened to, and involved in the care and support of the person they care for.



This strategy will assist us to achieve the recognition that Carers deserve and to improve support and services for Carers of all ages in Wirral.

DRAFT

INTRODUCTION

The previous Wirral's Strategy for Carers 2014 – 2017 was due to be updated in 2018. There has been a delay in drafting a new Wirral Strategy for Carers because:

- The Government planned to update the national Carers Strategy; and although a new strategy wasn't launched, the government did produce the Action Plan for Carers 2018 – 2020.



- The strategic Carers Partnership Board, which monitored the strategy implementation was under review prior to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Carers Partnership Board ceased to operate during 2020.

The impact of Coronavirus has had a significant effect on people in the community, particularly Carers. People were caring in extremely testing circumstances where meeting up with family and friends was either prohibited, limited or very difficult. People were not able to access support to help them in their caring role, take a break using services such as short-break beds or day care support as many of these services could not operate throughout the pandemic. Some Carers who relied on care and support at home to help with personal care needs of the cared for, opted to temporarily cease the service to protect against catching the Coronavirus.

Health and care services within the community have resumed their service offer, with the community adapting to live with Coronavirus, it is an appropriate time to start pulling together a new Wirral Carers Strategy.

The new Wirral Adult Carers Strategy will incorporate what people with caring responsibilities have told us about what is important to them, as well as input from providers who work closely with Carers. The Strategy has been coproduced with Carers. We will establish a new Carers Partnership Board to monitor the progress of the delivery of the priorities set out and an Action Plan put in place.

The Wirral Adult Carers Strategy will draw on some of the national directives and good practice examples to provide a foundation for improving identification, recognition, and support for local Carers.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To be completed once final version is agreed



DRAFT

Carers in Wirral

For the purpose of this strategy the term Carer is defined as someone who provides, unpaid, physical and/ or emotional support to a family member or friend who has a physical or learning disability, ill health, frailty due to age, a mental health or substance misuse problem and without help would not be able to remain in the community. A Carer can be under or over 18 years of age.

[The Census 2021 data](#), released 19/01/2023 on unpaid Carers indicates a reduction in the overall number of people identifying themselves as a Carer. The Census Bulletin included a statement on this about the Census taking place during the coronavirus



pandemic, that this may have influenced how people perceived and managed their provision of unpaid care, and therefore may have affected how people choose to respond.

Potential explanations for changes in the provision of unpaid care could include:

- coronavirus guidance on reducing travel and limiting visits to people from other households.
- unpaid carers who previously shared caring responsibilities may have taken on all aspects of unpaid care because of rules on household mixing during the coronavirus pandemic.
- there were a higher number of deaths than expected in the older population [at the beginning of 2021 due to coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and other causes](#); this could have led to a reduction in the need for unpaid care.
- changes in the question wording between 2011 and 2021 may have had an impact on the number of people who self-reported as unpaid carers.

Comparing the 2011 and 2021 Census data:

Number of Carers

	2011	2021
Wirral	40,340	34,266
England and Wales	6,506,457	Estimated 5,000,000 (19/01/2023)

Hours providing unpaid care Wirral 2011 and 2021



Number of hours care provided	Up to 20 hours	Between 20 – 49 hours	50 + Hours
2011	23,879 (59.2%)	5,768 (14.3%)	10,693 (26.5%)
2021	15,297 (43.8%%)	8,097 (23.2%%)	10,872 (31.1%)

In 2011 Census, the number of people who self-identified as a Carer was 40,340 (12% of the Wirral population). This compares to 34,266 (10.9%) of a resident population of 320,200 in the 2021 Census, this is a 1.1% decrease in the last decade. The largest decrease is the number of people providing unpaid care up to 20 hours a week, while the number of people providing between 20 – 49 hours and over 50 hours have increased.

For more details please see [Wirral JSNA – Carers](#) and for local population information go to [Local Insight](#)

Research shows that the impact on a Carers health and wellbeing is greater for those who spend a significant amount of time providing care, their age and people who are caring alone who do not have wider circles of support - family and friends.

The 2011 Census found that Carers providing round the clock care are more than twice as likely to be in poor health than non-Carers.

- 6 out of 10 Carers (61%) said their physical health has worsened as a result of caring,
- 7 out of 10 (72%) said they have experienced mental ill health.

These findings are reinforced in the 2021 GP Patient Survey, which found that Carers are more likely to be in poor health than the general population.



- with 6 in 10 (60%) of Carers having a long-term condition, disability or illness compared to 50% of those who were not caring.¹

Between 2010-2020, people aged 46-65 were the largest age group to become unpaid carers. 41% of people who became unpaid carers were in this age group²

Of the 40,340 Carers, the 2018 projections estimated that 17,723 of the Carers will be aged 65+ with 75% of them providing 50+ hours of care.

Carers recorded as known to health and social care services:

There will be Carers who appear on one or more of the electronic record systems in health and social care, other voluntary, community and faith sector organisations that have their own databases of Carers that they support. The table below shows a snapshot in December 2022, of the number of Carers recorded in adult social care, GP's and the commissioned Wired Carers service.

Carers registers	December 2022	Category
Local Authority	5,060	Total recorded as the main Carer: of these 3,312 identified as female and 1686 male
	2,757	providing informal support
	3128	adult Carers (over 18 years)
	1932	older Carers (over 65 years)
	10,221	people known to Adult Social Care

¹ <https://www.carersuk.org/policy-and-research/our-areas-of-policy-work/health/>

² <https://www.carersuk.org/policy-and-research/key-facts-and-figures/>



GP Carers Register	12,837	
Wired Carers Register	6,295	

In 2015 the economic value of the contribution that was made by Carers in the UK was £132 billion, recent research carried out by Carers UK, (Unseen and Undervalued) November 2020, estimated the value of care provided between March and November 2020 was £530 million per day and estimated as £193 billion per year during the pandemic.

The development of electronic recording systems, across health and care services should help to improve the identification of Carers to provide more accurate records. This will assist in health and social care services to provide information to Carers, for example the new [NHS England SNOMED CT codes for GP identification of unpaid Carers](#) (2023) at practice level. SNOMED is defined as Systemised Nomenclature of Medicine, which are codes used to record clinical information about patient electronic health records.

Carers receiving Covid Vaccinations

In February 2021, the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisation (JCVI), categorised Carers as priority group, for the roll out of the Covid vaccinations. This provided a real opportunity for GP practices to update their own Carer register records and identify Carers known to their practice for the first time and enabled Carers to be identified earlier to receive their vaccinations and booster injections.

GP's will use the new SNOMED codes, and in the future, we will be able to report from the codes.

NHS England identified the following benefits for Carers:

- Supporting the sharing of appropriate information with others involved in delivering care.
- Opportunity for the practice to identify patients for priority interventions such as vaccinations.
- All unpaid carers are eligible for an Annual Wellbeing Check. The purpose of this check is to ensure that the information recorded on the Practice Carers Register is accurate and to provide a space where the mental, physical and social aspects of the carer's life can be discussed.



NHS England identified some of the benefits for GP's as enabling accurate and targeted access to relevant information, reducing costly duplications and errors. As well as preparedness for CQC inspections: how practices support carers: carers registers; holistic support needs; in-practice support; appointments and access; information for carers; awareness and culture.

DRAFT



Survey of Adult Carers in England 2021 / 2022

The Local Authority is required to undertake an Adult Carers Survey every two years. The survey was sent out to approximately 1,000 Carers known to Adult Social Care, who were randomly selected from the social care records. All personal details remain confidential as participants are provided with a unique personal number.

The Carers Survey gathers information from Carers about access to support, information and advice and asks Carers about their quality of life, the impact of services on their quality of life, and their general health and well-being.

The Carers Survey issued in 2021 also contained questions about the Carers experience of support during Covid-19. Many services were restricted during the pandemic and therefore, 53% of Wirral respondents reported not receiving support or services during the pandemic, while the England average of 45.5%

Other important findings from the Carers Survey, which were reflected in our conversations with Carers, was on accessibility to information and advice, services, and benefits, where 47% of Wirral Carers found it very or fairly easy to access against the England average of 58%, but 53% of Wirral Carers found access fairly or very difficult. Carers accessing training or support from Carers Groups or having someone to talk to in confidence were also lower than the England average.

However, 35% of Wirral Carers said that they have as much social contact they want with people, compared to England average of 28%. The Carer reported Quality of Life experienced by Wirral Carers scores 7.9, this is against a North West and England average score of 7.3. The Quality of Life score for Carers is calculated on the health condition of the cared for person.

The results from the [2021 / 2022 Social Adult Carers Survey](#) will be used to benchmark Wirral against other comparator local authorities and any progress made will be monitored as part of the Action Plan.

Some of the Wirral results compared to England average -



Finding information and advice on support, services and benefits
Very or Fairly Easy to access
Wirral 47%
England 58%

Social contact with people you want?
I have as much time as I want
Wirral 35%
England 28%
I have little social contact & feel socially isolated
Wirral 14%
England 21%

Encouragement and support in your caring role?
Yes
Wirral 39.9%
England 31.5%
No
Wirral 24%
England 23%

Finding information and advice on support, services and benefits
Fairly or very difficult
Wirral 53%
England 42%

Accessing Training for Carers in the last 12 months?
Wirral 2.4%
England 4%

Support from Carer Groups or someone to talk to in confidence
Yes
Wirral 21%
England 32%



What has been achieved since the Wirral Carers Strategy 2014 – 2017?

- Online Carers Assessment – the Carers Assessment has been made available electronically on the local authority website. This enables Carers to complete an assessment in their own home, without having to wait for a social care worker to contact them. Carers can save and complete their assessment in their own time.
- Increased number of Carers known to GP practices as a result of the Covid vaccination programme.
- Re-commissioning of the Early Intervention and Prevention & Carers services, delivered by Wirral Health and Wellbeing Community Interest Company.
- Age UK Wirral distributed tablet computers to over 100 older people and their Carers during Covid lockdown, to provide them digital access to family, friends, and online information.
- During the Covid lockdown periods, the third sector organisations adapted in the way that services were delivered. Wired and Age UK Wirral Carers Services offered support to prevent Carers from feeling isolated due to the restrictions, support was provided through a range of offers, including welfare phone calls, Teams or Zoom meetings, safe distancing face to face meetings as well as support provided from the Council and third sector helplines.
- Carers Direct Payments are available to eligible adult Carers following a Carers Assessment.
- Local Authority funding was provided to Wired to offer free Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Carers from 2021.

The National Picture

There are a number of national directives that have set key priorities. The key priorities will be incorporated into the strategy and will include reference to the national directives and good practice guides for improved Carers support:

- [DHSC Carers Action Plan 2018 – 2020](#)
- [NICE Quality Standards 2021](#)
- [Adult Social Care Reform December 2021](#)
- [NHS Long-term plan 2019](#)



- [NHS Commitment to Carers 2015](#)
- [Supporting carers in general practice: a framework of quality markers](#)
- [Caring as a social determinant of health](#)

The Carers Action Plan produced by the Department of Health and Social Care followed one of the largest consultations they had undertaken. The following national key priorities were identified as:

1. Services and systems that work for Carers
2. Employment and financial wellbeing
3. Supporting Young Carers
4. Recognising and supporting Carers in the wider community and society
5. Building research – evidence to improve outcomes for Carers

The NICE Quality Standards focused on adult Carers over 18 years and identified the following priorities:

1. Identification of Carers
2. Working with Carers
3. Assessing Carers Needs
4. Carers Breaks
5. Helping Carers to stay in work

What Wirral Carers told us is important to them



The Carers who have helped to shape the strategy came from a range of backgrounds and ages. Some were Parent Carers of children with disabilities, adults caring for other adults or older people with ill health, or disability. Some were Young Carers and some working Carers. We met Carers who were caring for more than one person and Carers caring for a young dependent person under 18 years as well as an older person, known as '[Sandwich Carers](#)³'. The focus groups that we met with have identified the following areas / issues that they wish to improve:

- Carers health and wellbeing, physical and emotional support
- Identification of Carers, particularly in primary care and hospital settings
- Skills training for Carers
- Digital Inclusion support
- Issues relating to isolation and loneliness
- Access to good quality information and advice / CADT referrals for assessments
- Contingency planning for emergencies and crisis
- Flexible and personalised support e.g. Direct Payments, outcomes from assessments
- Access to Carers Groups
- Access to short breaks from caring
- Improved understanding of issues faced by Carers of people with dementia
- Improved knowledge by professionals supporting people with dementia
- Parent Carers support

- Transition of young people from children to adult services
- Information sharing across agencies
- Adult and Young Carer pathways
- Support for Young Carers and Young Adult Carers

³ ONS Sandwich Carers 2019 <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/datasets/sandwichcarers>



- Greater Carer involved in co-production and co-design.
- The impact of the cost-of-living crisis on finances and caring
- Support for former Carers when their caring ends

What Carers Identified as being important to them:

The list above covers the wide variety of subjects covered by each Carer co-production group and provided the basis to the emerging key themes that were identified. At the final Carers Co-production Group, we agreed the following themes that would be included in the priorities:

- a. Improving Carers health and wellbeing, including physical and emotional support
- b. Early identification of Carers, particularly in health and care services, and the wider community and society
- c. Addressing Carers isolation and loneliness
- d. Improved access to information and advice
- e. Services and systems that work for Carers
- f. Improved access to Carers Assessment, including contingency / emergency planning
- g. Developing Carer activities, short breaks, and support where there are identified gaps
- h. Support for working Carers

What you told us and what we have prioritised

Combining the national directives (see pages 12 & 13) alongside what local Carers have identified, we are proposing the following 6 priorities for Wirral:

Priority 1 Information and Advice

Ensure that Carers can find information and advice to support them in their caring role and when caring comes to an end:



- We will work with Carers to produce the right information and advice in new and accessible ways. We will continue to provide the digital information platforms and will explore alternative ways of providing information.
- Create a Carers Toolbox.
- We will ensure that training and learning for Carers is available for them to carry out their caring role safely and with confidence.
- We will ensure that Carers Assessments are offered, personalised, proportionate, and timely.
- We will equip and support partners with the skills and knowledge to provide accurate information that supports Carers.
- We will work to develop a single point of contact for Carers Information and Advice.
- We will work to support digital inclusion.

Professionals can support Carers by providing and directing them to reliable sources for information and advice

Carer

Not all people can access digital information. We need support with this.

Carer

Priority 2 Carers

We will work with all health and social care organisations to improve access to support to address the Carers own health as well as the person they care for

- To raise awareness of Carers, promote best practice across all health and social care professionals to identify, value and support Carers effectively.
- We will support and promote the Primary Care Carers Quality Standards to include:
 - Carers Health Checks
 - Carers vaccinations



- Flexible appointments
- Mental Health support
- Contingency and emergency planning
- We will promote improved ways to support Carers in Primary Care and other health settings.
- Review availability and access to Carers Short Breaks.
- Support people to access Carers Support Groups and networks for specific health conditions.

We want all Health and Social Care professionals to identify Carers, and recognise them as experts by experience

Carer

My husband has dementia, I love him dearly, but I need the support of others to help me get through some of the bad days

Carer



Priority 3 Carers Health and Wellbeing

Strive to improve the health and wellbeing of Carers of all ages to reduce health inequalities in Carers:

- Ensure that there is a range of training available for Carers such as:
 - Understanding Carers Rights and Carers Assessments
 - Manual handling techniques
 - Managing medications
 - Managing health conditions
 - Health and safety
 - Lasting Power of Attorney, Wills, and Trusts
- Ensure people are informed about technology to support the Carer and cared for.
- Support to maintain contact with family and friends, and enjoy activities outside of the caring role.
- Carers want to be recognised and valued to promote emotional wellbeing.
- Support to access Carers / Peer Support groups, with the person I care for attending, if they want to.
- Provide Carer awareness training for professionals.

“I make sure I take time out to do something that I enjoy. I have family that will step in to give me a break”

Carer

“This Carers Group is so important to me. I am with people who understand what it’s like to be a Carer and they are so supportive”

Carer

Priority 4 Finances and Benefits



We will work to ensure that the systems and organisations improve access to information in relation to finance and benefits:

- Identify what information and organisations are available to advise on benefit claims and other financial advice.
- Support Carers to break out of the 'benefits trap' where Carers are looking for employment or training.
- Provide Carers and the cared for with accurate information about charging for services.
- Support for 'self-funders' and help them to understand what support is available to them.
- Assist to understand Continuing Health Care (CHC) funding.
- Improve Direct Payments Services for the cared for:
 - Clearer process for Direct Payments
 - A register for Personal Assistants (PA)
 - Assistance with CV's and training PA's
- Greater understanding of Personal Health Budgets.

"The cost-of-living crisis is worrying ; it is having a real impact on Carers and the people we care for"

Carers

My wife and I are self-funders because we are over the upper limit in savings. But I still need someone I can trust to advise me

Self-funding Carer



Priority 5 Short Breaks for Carers

We will work to ensure that there are community support services to enable Carers to take a break from their caring role: -

- Good quality, reliable Short Break services through residential settings and day care opportunities.
- Promote taking breaks through a Direct Payment option.
- Work with providers to encourage Carer confidence to access, or where possible to trial, a short break offer in advance, for example in a day care setting.
- Include Carers in the design and development of short break services and support.
- Raise awareness of [disability accessible community services](#)
- Offering Carers Assessments to ensure that Carers needs for a break are identified.
- Improve the Primary care role in identifying Carers whose health and wellbeing would benefit from Short Breaks.

“I need a break to recharge my energy levels so that I can continue to provide the best care that I can when they return home”

Carer

“I want to carry on caring for my mum, but I just need a break every so often”

Carer



Priority 6 Communication with Professionals

To improve the sharing of data across professionals, as well as, between professional and Carers.

- Carers should be respected by health and social care professionals.
- Improve the training offer for social care professionals re: Carers Assessments and referrals to alternative support.
- Carers don't want to repeatedly tell different professionals about their situation. We will look to improve communications and sharing of information between departments.
- Improve hospital staff identification and communication with Carers and family members that may be about to take on caring responsibilities.
- Support Domiciliary care agencies to work proactively with Carers and improve communication.
- Encourage agencies to improve dementia awareness, and training when working with people with dementia and their Carers.

"I want to be involved in the plans for my sister, so that she can enjoy an independent life with my support"

Carer

"I sometimes feel like I'm invisible!"

"I just want my voice to be heard"

"Please help me to understand what your role is, how to contact you and what help you are going to offer"

Carers



Parent Carers caring for Children with additional needs

Many of the same issues, obstacles and barriers faced by adult Carers caring for another adult over 18 years, can apply to a Parent Carer, however, there are some areas that Parent Carers told us that need highlighting.

We will work to address and improve support in the following areas.

Transition from Children's to Adult Services

- To ensure that young people and their families understand the Transition Process
 - Embedding a Whole Family Approach when working with families
 - Ensure the family understand what to expect from the transition from children to adult services
 - Children and young people with health conditions (both diagnosed and undiagnosed) will understand what is available to them once they turn 18 years
 - Raise awareness of issues encountered by children and young people with health and cognitive issues who are considered be high functioning or have neuro-diverse conditions)

Recognition as a Parent Carer

- Work with health, social care, and educational professionals to recognise and respond to Parent Carers issues and needs, and how a child's disability, or additional needs, impacts on the Parent Carer
 - Recognition as a Parent, who has a child with additional needs
 - Improved communication between Children's and NHS services
- Direct Payments (See Priority 4)
 - Listening to what Parent Carers want, PA training needs to meet a diverse range of people with unique needs
 - Confidence to leave a child with someone else



Good Practice – Parent Carer

Finding a way to get a break for my son and for me was so frustrating, because of his medical and social care needs he was turned away from services. One service would not take him because they weren't trained around his medical needs, and another couldn't meet his social care needs. The manager at the Centre found the 'solution' he arranged for the staff to receive managing diabetes and learning disability training.

Now we both get to take part in things that we both enjoy. It just took one professional to look at our situation and make it happen.

Parent Carer

'One size doesn't fit all!'



The District Nurse could see that I was struggling to cope, and I felt under so much pressure. She provided me with information that helped to prevent a crisis by signposting me to the information that I needed at that time and actively supported me as a Carer.

'I felt like somebody cared about me too'



Young Carers and Young Adult Carers

A Young Carer is identified as someone under the age of 18 who looks after a family member or friend who has a physical or mental health condition, or misuses drugs or alcohol. A Young Adult Carer is aged 18 to 25 years.

Young people who are providing care to a relative or friend are more likely to experience issues with managing a caring role, it can be a positive and rewarding experience, but it can also have a negative impact on education, health and wellbeing and social life of the young person. A Young Adult Carer is more likely to be planning for their future as an adult, this may involve further education, vocational training or looking for employment. Young Carers needs, aspirations and plans should be considered as part of the assessment, and transition into adulthood.

Identifying Young Carers and Young Adult Carers will continue to be a priority for both Children's and Adult services, to ensure that they are protected from providing inappropriate and disproportionate levels of care to a family member, and also to ensure that they are supported.



- [Continue to work with professionals](#)⁴ working in schools to acknowledge if a young person has caring responsibilities and the impact this has on the Young Carers life– their home, education, friendships, and social activities
- We will work with partners to ensure that Young Adult Carers are identified and supported through transition from children to adults in health, social care and education, training, and employment
- We will review what information is available to Young Carers for the provision of focused information
- Referrals to Mental Health support for young people
- Reliable care for the cared for, so that the Young Carer can have peace of mind
- Young Carers need flexible breaks from their role
- Young Carers want support to have a social life with friends and family

“Ensuring I have someone to talk to and support in place”

“Making sure that I have eaten that day even if I’ve forgotten”

Young Carers

Working Carers

Prior to the coronavirus crisis, Carers UK estimated that 4.9 million people were juggling paid work alongside unpaid care, representing 15% of the UK’s population. It is thought that a further 2.8 million then began juggling work and care during the pandemic, bringing the new total to 7.7 million – the majority of whom are women.⁵

One in seven people working for an organisation could have caring responsibilities to a lesser or greater extent. Research shows that people who are not recognised as Carers and not supported by their employer are most likely to leave work because of their caring responsibilities. This is costly to the employer because they are not retaining valuable, skilled staff and they incur costs in recruiting to posts. Wirral Council and partners want to improve identification and support for Carers in employment, as this enhances not just the quality of life for a Carer but makes economical business sense as well.

The stresses and strain of having to juggle paid work alongside unpaid care has already led to hundreds of thousands of people having to leave the labour market. Nationally on average, 600 people per day quit work because of a lack of support to juggle work and care – including over 500,000 people in the two years before the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶

⁴ <https://carers.org/resources/all-resources/80-identification-practice-of-young-carers-in-england-a-review-tips-and-tools>

⁵ <https://www.carersuk.org/policy-and-research/our-areas-of-policy-work/juggling-work-and-unpaid-care/>



Wirral has a population of 320,200, with a caring population of approximately 12%, there are an estimated 22,000 working Carers in Wirral. There are an increasing number of people who are working longer before retirement age and taking on caring responsibilities for a family member or friend, it is imperative that Carers are offered appropriate support to continue to work, if they wish to.

Next Steps and Measuring Success

It is intended that this Carers Strategy will be a live document and will be developed over the next 3 years. Through the Carers Partnership Board, we will continue to review the Wirral Adult Carers Strategy, taking into account any new national directives or change to legislation. We will work with the key stakeholders to develop an All-Age Carers Strategy for Wirral.

The next steps to delivering on the Strategy and setting measures that will monitor its implementation are set out below:

- **Report to Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee for the Wirral Carers Strategy in March 2023**
- **Establish the multi-agency Carers Partnership Board, to include key stakeholders Carer representatives and partner organisations**
- **Carers Partnership Board will implement an Action Plan to deliver the priorities set out in the Carers Strategy**
- **The Action Plan will include performance measures to monitor implementation of the 6 key priorities**

⁶ <https://www.carersuk.org/policy-and-research/our-areas-of-policy-work/juggling-work-and-unpaid-care/>



- **Identify sub-groups to progress the identified priorities**
- **We will undertake an annual review of the Wirral Carers Strategy through the Carers Partnership Board**

Acknowledgements:

We want to thank all of the Carers who have helped to co-produce the Wirral Carers Strategy.

Healthwatch Wirral for their support to facilitate the Bridge Forum for Working Carers, and supporting some of the co-production events.

Thanks as well for feedback and insight from the Wirral Health and Wellbeing CIC who are the service providers for the Early Intervention and Prevention & Carers Services.

Future engagement and co-production:

As part of the ongoing implementation of the Wirral Carers Strategy, further work will be to identify and work with Carers of all ages across Wirral and particularly with Carers from underrepresented groups such as LGBTQ +, and BAME communities. The Wirral Carers Strategy 2023 – 2026 will continue to be a working document.



Background Papers and References

Carers UK:

<https://www.carersuk.org/policy-and-research/our-areas-of-policy-work/health/>

<https://www.carersuk.org/policy-and-research/our-areas-of-policy-work/juggling-work-and-unpaid-care/>

<https://www.carersuk.org/policy-and-research/key-facts-and-figures/>

Office for National Statistics ONS Sandwich Carers 2019

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/datasets/sandwichcarers>

NHS England:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/supporting-carers-in-general-practice-a-framework-of-quality-markers/>

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/commitment-to-carers/>

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/coding-unpaid-carers-snomed-ct/>

Public Health England

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/caring-as-a-social-determinant-of-health-review-of-evidence>

Department of Health and Social Care – Care Act 2014

<https://www.gov.uk/search/all?keywords=Care%20Act%202014&order=relevance>