



## CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 6 March 2024

REPORT TITLE:	ALL AGE DISABILITY STRATEGY
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF CARE AND HEALTH

### REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present the draft All Age Disability Strategy 2024-2029 for noting.

The strategy formed part of the work programme as an outcome of all age disability review which was approved at the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee on the 13 June 2023.

This report will highlight the strategy's:-

1. Coproduction journey from March to November 2023;
2. Best practice desktop research;
3. Purpose, vision, mission, core values and outcomes underpinning the strategy;
4. Links with and underpinning of other strategies and plans; and
5. Implementation plan, governance, and impact monitoring

The report supports the Council Plan: Wirral Working Together 2023-27, specifically the 'Promoting Independence and Healthier Lives' and 'Early Help for Children and Families' themes.

A decision as to whether to approve the All Age Disability Strategy is due to be made at the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee on Tuesday 5 March 2024.

This report is not a key decision, and it affects all wards.

### RECOMMENDATION/S

The Children, Young People & Education Committee is recommended to:

1. note the coproduced draft All Age Disability Strategy 2024-2029, included as Appendix 1 to this report; and
2. receive annual progress and impact reports of the implementation of the strategy.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 A high proportion (22.2%) of people in Wirral live with some kind of disability (as defined by the Equality Act 2010). This is 2.8% higher than across the North West and 4.9% higher than England. This proportion is projected to increase. Delivering Better Value analysis forecasts Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) caseloads in Wirral to increase from 2,700 in 2023, to 4,200 by 2028. These young people will age out of Children's into Adult Social Care, and with that bring increased expenditure.
- 1.2 The All Age Disability Strategy aims to improve outcomes for the people in Wirral who have a disability. It also provides strategic direction for the next 5 years to enable the Council to plan ahead and provide improved services, across housing and employment, that support people to live as independently as possible and can prevent needs from escalating. Preventative care not only improves outcomes for residents but can reduce cost to councils across a resident's lifetime. With financial efficiencies identified for this service area over the coming years, it is necessary that this strategy is delivered to avoid future costs.
- 1.3 The All Age Disability Strategy is interlinked with several other strategies across the Council. It is important that the delivery plans are cross referenced to minimise duplication and maximise resources.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 Not to approve the All Age Disability Strategy. This would not deliver the best outcome for people with disabilities and their families/carers.
- 2.2 Not to implement the priorities from the All Age Disability Strategy. This would not deliver cost avoidance opportunities and will impact on the delivery of efficiencies identified for this service area set for 2025/26.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 In June 2023, the coproduction of an All Age Disability Strategy was identified as one of the priorities in the implementation work programme approved at the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee.
- 3.2 This strategy has been co-produced with people from across Wirral, including people with disabilities, their parents and carers, practitioners, commissioners, volunteers, and other people who work in health and social care. See Appendix 2 for details on the co-production journey.
- 3.3 The coproduction journey has been comprehensive. This has involved working together at all stages of co-production, from thinking about the underpinning values and what matters most to people with disabilities, to looking at good practice in other parts of the country. Due to our commitment to true co-production, this strategy has achieved certified 'coproduced' status under both the SEND and the Adults co-production Charters.

- 3.4 The process has involved listening and recognising that language is important, given that people use different terms when talking about disability. For example, some people prefer 'disabled people' and others 'people with disabilities,' some people will prefer 'learning disability' and other 'learning difficulty.' In this strategy, the term 'people with disabilities' is used.
- 3.5 This strategy is for anyone, of any age, who has one or more disability, and their parents and carers. This may include:
- a learning disability and/or autism;
  - a physical disability, including people with a brain injury;
  - a sensory impairment, such as loss of eyesight or hearing; or
  - a long-term mental health condition
- 3.6 Autism is not a disability, but some people with autism do consider their autism to be a disability.
- 3.7 This strategy links to the following local strategies and plans. Appendix 4 visualises the overlap between these strategies:
- Wirral Council Plan 2023-27
  - Wirral Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-27
  - Wirral All Age Autism Strategy 2024-29
  - Wirral SEND Statement of Action 2022
  - Wirral Supported Employment Strategy 2023
  - Cheshire and Merseyside Learning Disability and Autism Housing Plan 2024
  - Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Strategy 2023-28
- 3.8 Purpose is 'by maximising personal potential, people of all ages with disabilities live a full and active life.'
- 3.9 Vision is to enable people of all ages with disabilities to have choice and exercise control over their own lives.
- 3.10 Mission is to work together to realise aspirations, improve access to opportunities and reduce these barriers for people of all ages with disabilities in Wirral.
- 3.11 There are five core values that underpin this strategy, they are: -
1. Person-centred – 'placing the person at the heart of everything we do'
  2. Working Together – 'Coproducting and collaborating for the best outcomes'
  3. Advocacy – 'giving everybody the equal opportunity to have their voice heard'
  4. Integrity – 'doing the right thing for the right reasons'
  5. Quality – 'being outstanding in everything we do'

3.12 The aim to deliver services that are outcome focused. People with lived experience and their families told us that there are four outcomes we should prioritise supporting people to achieve over the next five years. These are:

1. Improving health and wellbeing
2. Living enriched lives
3. Having independent lives
4. Gaining employment and economic wellbeing

3.13 These four outcomes are interlinked, and we recognise it is hard for people to achieve their goals in one area if the others are not in place. So, it is important progress is made against all these priorities.

3.14 Under each of the four outcomes, the strategy describes:

- What residents have told us they need. This is based on the information we received across workshops, sessions, and surveys.
- What else we know. This is based on local statistics, overlaps with other strategies, as well as research into national best practice.
- Where we need to focus. This is based on consolidating what residents have told us with other research to identify 3-4 areas of focus, each listing how we plan to deliver.

3.15 The concluding section (“Making it Happen”) of the strategy describes how the strategy is implemented. It sets out a commitment to ensuring the strategy is accessible, e.g., in easy read and other formats. This section also outlines 5 enabling actions that underpin all four priorities as listed in 3.13 of this report. These are:

1. better information and advice
2. better data to inform commissioning
3. better and earlier care planning
4. workforce development
5. adequate resources to meet need

3.16 Lastly, the strategy explains how progress will be measured. This will be with a balance of key performance indicators and outcomes, with the governance arrangements to monitor and report progress in a timely manner.

3.17 The draft All Age Disability Strategy is tabled at Appendix 1. There is also a draft Easy Read summary attached as Appendix 5.

## **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no direct financial implications to this report as All Age Disability Strategy. Through the coproduction of the implementation plan, it will look to align, pool, or repurpose existing resources to ensure the deliverables are achieved in line with its vision and outcomes of this strategy.

## **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Council has a legal duty to assess the needs of people who may need care and support, to promote independence and wellbeing, and can apply discretion as to how to meet those needs identified.
- 5.2 All Age Disability Strategy is in line with statutory requirements, including The Mental Health Act 1983, The Care Act 2014, The Health, and Care Act 2022, Childrens and Families Act 2014 and the Equality Act 2010.

## **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS**

- 6.1 Recognising the current capacity challenges within the Council, resources have been realigned to support the deliverables of this strategy. Successful recruitment and selection have taken place to appoint an all age disability strategic manager and officer. As the implementation progresses, if additional resources are required these will be subject to a separate report.

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 7.1 There is minimal risk presented that the All Age Disability Strategy implementation plan is not produced in a timely manner with management priorities over the next five years following the approval of the strategy. This will be mitigated by the partnership board who will oversee, monitor, and report the coproduction of the implementation plan following approval of the strategy. It will also report progress and impact of this to the Adult Social Care & Public Health Committee, Children's, Young People and Education Committee and Wirral Place Based Partnership Board as required.
- 7.2 There is a risk that all age disability strategy implementation plan requires further resources. This will be mitigated by improved joining up priorities, better alignment of existing resource, seeking new opportunities for new funding sources and improved partnership working. There will also be in place, a balance of key performance indicators and outcomes, with the governance arrangements to monitor and report progress in a timely manner.

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 Stakeholders and experts by experience have been engaged in the coproduction of All Age Disability Strategy over the past eight months, from March – November 2023. See Appendix 2.
- 8.2 Coproduction and collaboration will remain at the heart with key stakeholders and experts by experience when producing the strategy implementation plan. Where applicable, consultation will be undertaken.
- 8.3 The All Age Disability Strategy will be shared also to the Children, Young People and Education Committee and Wirral Place Based Partnership Board.

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 An updated Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been produced and will continue to be updated as part of the implementation of the proposed deliverables of this strategy. This is located here: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>
- 9.2 Consideration will also be given to the need for an EIA for any individual areas of work within the review where this is identified.

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 Consideration will be given to environmental and climate implications in the planning and implementation of the review, and in its recommendations.

## **11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 Care provider organisations employ significant numbers of Wirral residents who contribute to the local economy. People with a disability having greater opportunity to reach their aspirations for work, housing, leisure, learning and volunteering will positively impact on the vibrancy and development of local communities and economies.

**REPORT AUTHOR: Jean Stephens**  
Assistant Director of All Age Independence and Provider Services  
telephone: 0151 637 2030  
email: jeanstephens@wirral.gov.uk

## **APPENDICES**

- Appendix 1 All Age Disability Strategy 2024-29 (FINAL DRAFT)  
Appendix 2 Coproduction Journey  
Appendix 3 Best Practice Review findings report  
Appendix 4 Supporting strategy's interlink diagram  
Appendix 5 Draft Easy read summary of All Age Disability Strategy 2024-29

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Wirral Adult Care and Health Market Position Statement:  
<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/adult-social-care/market-position-statement>

Best Practice Review (outline of evidence) submitted to Committee in June 2023:  
<https://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=50103036>

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

This report is being considered at the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee in accordance with Section 2.2(a) adult social care matters (e.g., people aged 18 or over with eligible social care needs and their carers).

## **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee	13 June 2023
Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee	6 March 2023
Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee	14 June 2022