



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot  
Neath Port Talbot Council

## **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL Social Care, Health & Well-being Cabinet Board**

**12<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**Report of the Head of Adult Services – Ms A. Thomas**

### **Matter for Decision**

**Wards Affected:** All wards

### **NEATH PORT TALBOT CARERS STRATEGY**

#### **Purpose of the Report:**

To inform Members of the draft Neath Port Talbot Carers Strategy and seek approval to undertake a 90 day public consultation.

#### **Executive Summary:**

Identifying carers, helping them to maintain their caring role and have a life outside of caring is essential. The draft strategy sets out how Neath Port Talbot Council ('the Council') and its partners can work together towards achieving these aims.

#### **Background:**

It is important to recognise the crucial role that informal carers have in preventing the need for additional care and support for the individuals they care for. Provision of services to prevent carers from developing a need for support themselves is a Directorate priority.

Under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, a carer is *“a person who provides or intends to provide care for an adult or a disabled child. In general, professional carers who receive payment should not be regarded as carers for the purposes of the Act, nor should people who provide care as voluntary work.”*

There are more than 20,000 unpaid carers living in Neath Port Talbot, representing approximately one-in-seven of the entire population, which is the highest proportion of any area in Wales and England. This figure also only relates to those who identify themselves as unpaid carers. There are many more people caring for family members or friends who do not regard themselves as ‘carers’.

At a national level, Welsh Government has set the following three priorities for carers:

- Identifying and recognising carers
- Providing information, advice and assistance
- Supporting life alongside caring

This strategy seeks to engage with local carers to identify what actions, interventions and support is needed to meet these priorities.

The co-production of a strategy and action plan in conjunction with carers provides the Council, partners and stakeholders with the opportunity to identify and develop a framework for supporting carers.

A five-year West Glamorgan Regional Carers Strategy is being developed and it is expected that co-production workshops will be jointly held to ensure that the needs of Neath Port Talbot carers are reflected more widely at a regional level.

The aim of the Neath Port Talbot Carers Strategy is to make sure that support meets the need of our local carers.

**Financial Impacts:**

Any new developments will be subject to a financial assessment to ensure that responses are within the available financial resources.

**Integrated Impact Assessment:**

A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016). The first stage impact assessment has indicated that a more in-depth assessment was required.

An overview of the Integrated Impact Assessment has been included below in summary form only and it is essential that Members read the Integrated Impact Assessment, which is attached to the report at Appendix 3, for the purposes of the meeting.

It is concluded that overall the draft strategy will have a neutral impact on protected characteristics. The purpose of the strategy is to help support Neath Port Talbot's unpaid carers. It will also ensure long term sustainability of services in line with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Integrated Impact Assessment will be refreshed following the consultation to take into account any new information.

**Valleys Communities Impacts:**

The recommendation has no spatial impact on our valleys communities and does not link to the impacts identified in the Cabinet's response to the Council's Task and Finish Group's recommendations on the Valleys.

**Workforce Impacts:**

No implications.

**Legal Impacts:**

The draft strategy has been developed in line with the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, Regulations and Codes of Practice that set out the Council's duty to assess carers' need for support, as well as the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) Act 2015 which includes responsibility for ensuring sustainability of services.

**Risk Management Impacts:**

None

**Consultation:**

The draft strategy is required to be subject to public consultation.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that Members grant permission for Officers to undertake a 90 day public consultation on the proposed Carers Strategy attached at Appendix 1 and 2 to this report.

**Reasons for Proposed Decision:**

- To provide Neath Port Talbot carers with a say over what local interventions, services and support will help them maintain their caring role
- To ensure a sustainable range of good quality support is available to meet the needs of the unpaid carers of Neath Port Talbot

**Implementation of Decision:**

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

**Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – NPT Draft Carers Strategy.

Appendix 2 – Easy Read Document.

Appendix 3 – Integrated Impact Assessment.

Appendix 4 – Consultation Document.

**List of Background Papers:**

Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and associated Regulations (Part 3 Code of Practice):

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-05/part-3-code-of-practice-assessing-the-needs-of-individuals.pdf>

**Officer Contact:**

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