

Barnet Children's Partnership Board Report

Title: Carers and Young Carers Strategy 2023-2028

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1. Summary

Supporting carers and young carers is a priority for the Council and the NHS, and supporting unpaid carers is one of the objectives included in the Council's manifesto. This strategy supports the Barnet Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Barnet's Children and Young People's Plan and Child and Family Early Help Strategy, and the Adult Social Care Reform priorities for unpaid carers.

This strategy will help the Council and partners to carry out its duties to support carers in their caring role. This includes helping to prevent young carers from carrying out inappropriate caring and ensuring that carers of all ages can achieve desired outcomes. Delivering upon the strategy priorities will require close working between partners, carers and the wider community.

The strategy will be supported by an action to translate outcomes into delivery to make a real and lasting difference to the lives of carers of all ages.

2. Updates since last BCPB

N/A This is the first time this strategy has been presented to BCPB

3. Impact

- Equalities and Diversity

The preparation of this strategy and action plan includes detailed analysis and review of carers and young carers to identify underrepresented groups to enable focused action planning in accordance with need.

- Corporate Parenting

This the strategy is relevant for carers of all ages. Whilst the strategy may be relevant for some children in care or care leavers, this cohort is not the core focus.

4. Consultation and Engagement

This strategy, including priorities and the outcomes identified have been developed with young carers and adult carers across the borough. The strategy represents the first step and we are committed to working together to co-design the carers action plan and its implementation to reflect the specific actions needed.

Over 300 carers have contributed and supported development to date via a combination of focus groups, online surveys and consultation on the draft strategy.

- Online surveys were sent to carers and young carers and shared via Engage Barnet. 54 young carers responded to the young carers survey.
- Six focus group discussions were held this Autumn by Barnet Carers Centre in person and remotely. Focus group sessions were held with young carers, young adult carers, parent carers and adults carers including dementia carers.
- A further focus group was held with 9 young carers in December to review and develop strategy outcomes and priorities.
- The draft strategy has been out for public consultation on Engage Barnet in February.
- The final strategy will be shared with partners prior to sign off via the Adults and Safeguarding Board and the Children's, Education and Safeguarding Committee in March.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

We welcome comments on the plan and further input and engagement to develop the action plan in partnership.

6. Background Papers

Draft Carers and Young Carers Strategy 2023-2028