

**THINK CARER STRATEGY****Report of the Director of Adult Services****1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Council have commissioned Signpost for Carers to deliver an All Age Carers strategy for the Stockport Locality. The Think Carer Strategy is a plan for Stockport as a place and a community. The intention is that it will become the focus for work to improve recognition of and support for carers in Stockport over the next 5 years and will help to guide services across Adult Social Care, the NHS as well as charities, the education sector, employers and many other local services. The strategy is aligned to the ambitions described within the One Heart section of the Borough Plan, the One Health and Care plan and the Neighbourhoods and Prevention programme.
- 1.2 Successful delivery and implementation of that strategy will need the commitment of all partners in the Stockport locality. This will ensure that we get this right for carers and mean that health and social care will be better for Stockport residents and patients.
- 1.3 The Think Carer strategy is supported by an action plan that will enable us to deliver on the ambitions and priorities described. We will monitor progress through the new Carers Partnership and Carers Network which together will improve the voice and visibility of carers in Stockport.
- 1.4 Alongside the development of the strategy we are asking partners across the Stockport locality to sign up to a Think Carer charter. In doing so we are encouraging organisations to become carer friendly employers and provide mandatory training to their teams. We are also looking for ways to further improve the support for carers across the locality and are seeking the support of partners to do this.

**2. Co Production & Engagement**

- 2.1 The strategy has been co produced with carers from across Stockport. Carers of different ages and with varying caring roles have been at the heart of shaping the priorities within the strategy.
- 2.2 A new carers partnership made up of Stockport carers, organisations and partners has been formed and will oversee the implementation and delivery of the strategy. The partnership has contributed to the development of the strategy and has enabled us to engage with individuals, groups and key partners in the third sector, for example Stockport Advocacy and Healthwatch. Alongside this a carers network is being developed. This will provide a forum for cares to meet, offer peer support and share experiences.

2.3 We are now seeking to undertake further engagement with partners across the Stockport Locality. The strategy will be presented to;

- Adult Social Care SMT – completed 26/01
- Children and Families SMT – completed 05/02
- Corporate Leadership team – completed 06/02
- Executive Group – completed 08/02
- Scrutiny committee – scheduled W/C 26/02
- PACT and Making it Real Board – TBC
- People and Community Voice Subgroup

2.4 The above engagement will enable the finalisation and launch of the strategy. From here a communication and engagement plan will be developed to share with the Health and Social Care Workforce. We will ask our workforce to sign up to our Think Carer charter and embed it in their day to day roles.

### **3. Conclusions and Recommendations**

3.1 The Think Carers Strategy will help us to improve support for carers across all ages, who live or work in Stockport or who care for a Stockport resident.

3.2 We are pleased to invite members of the committee to ask questions and comment on the content of the report and welcome suggestions for any further engagement activity.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Think Carer Strategy 2024/29 – Executive Summary (draft)

Think Carer Strategy 2024/29 – Priorities at a Glance (draft)

Think Carer Strategy 2024/29 (draft)

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Julia Hewer by email on [julia@signpostforcarers.org.uk](mailto:julia@signpostforcarers.org.uk) or Emma Bowe by email on [emma.bowe@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:emma.bowe@stockport.gov.uk)