**Carers Strategy and Carer Engagement**

With the devolution agenda across Greater Manchester (GM) and the development of the [Commitment to Carers](http://www.gmhsc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/GMHSCP-Carers-Commitment-FINAL.pdf) as well as the [Greater Manchester Carers Charter](http://www.gmhsc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Carers-Charter-FINAL.pdf) it presents an opportunity to develop a new Salford Carers Strategy that aligns with the Greater Manchester strategic Carers work and places Salford in a strong position for future strategic development.

**Strategic Considerations**

The [Carers Strategy](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-national-carers-strategy) refresh which was published in 2010 has now expired and central government have consulted on the development of a new Carers Strategy (which has recently been revised to a Carers Action Plan); as this has not yet been published it is important to be mindful of this in the development of Salford’s new strategy. However, as GM has a devolved health and social care budget aligning any borough specific strategies with the GM one is more significant.

As such, this present key strategic opportunities as the wider GM work develops, including: setting out key strategic objectives that are being developed at a GM level and preparing for local implementation, continuing Salford’s strong work as a pioneering borough for carer identification and support and in finally ensuring Salford’s ongoing work to being a carer friendly borough.

**Key Areas for Consideration**

Many Carers Strategies focus heavily on the support element for carers, although this is crucial in ensuring carers who are in the greatest need receive advice and support it often means that the majority of carers go unidentified.

The new Commitment to Carers present an opportunity to address the whole journey of a carer. Salford Carers Strategy should consider aligning itself to the headings of the Commitment to Carers and then working with carers in Salford to identify how services in Salford can achieve these aims.

**Key Principles and Questions for Carers**

**Carers to identified as early as Possible. Be informed, included and respected**

1. When the person you care for became unwell/disabled or could no longer manage without your support; how soon did some talk to you about being a carer? Did you feel involved by professionals? Were you giving all the information you needed to support that person? Did you feel your opinion, thoughts and ideas were respected by professionals you dealt with?

**To have Choice and Control about your Caring Role, including personalised support for you as a carer**

1. Did someone discuss how much you were willing and able to do as a carer? How soon were you offered a carer’s assessment and did you feel that was focussed on your personal needs?

**To be able to Stay** **Healthy and Well, and for your own needs and wishes to be recognised**

1. Were you told about support available to you as a carer? What challenges and barriers do you think exist to carers accessing support for themselves? Do you feel professionals supported you in your caring role to stay well?

**To be socially connected and not isolated**

1. Do you feel that your caring role has led to be you being more isolated or lonely? If not, why? If yes, what has contributed to this?

**To be supported to fulfil education and employment opportunities, and where possible to stay in work.**

1. Do you feel that you were offered support to ensure your caring role didn’t affect your education or job? If you gave up work due to your caring role, what was the reason for this? How could you have been supported to stay in work?

**Young and Young Adult Carers are supported so they are able to thrive and develop educationally, personally and socially. They are protected from excessive or inappropriate caring roles**

1. When did someone talk to you about being a young carer? Were you referred for support and a carer’s assessment? Do you think professionals recognised you and what you were doing for the person you care for?

Many Thanks for your assistance

Please send all completed case studies by 30th June to Email:  cliff.wilson@salford.gov.uk

For any further information or clarification Tel: 0161 212 5635