



Derby City Council

**MEETING: People's Commissioning Board**

**Date: 13.9.17**

**ITEM XX**

Report of the People's Commissioning Board

## **Update on the future of Carers Services**

### **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Following the results of the Carers Survey (see Appendix) in March 2017 work has been completed to review the current process for Carers' services and assessments in Derby. The existing assessment process excludes Carers from the benefits of the family assessment approach. Carers are being passed around different organisations, having to keep repeating information and experiencing lengthy delays. Consultation will therefore take place to consider alternative ways assessments could be delivered.
- 1.2 The Council currently commissions two contracts for Carers:-
  - a contract with Derbyshire Carers Association (DCA) for support to discharge duties as defined in the Carers Act 2014 including assessment and signposting; and This contract will expire on 31 March 2018 and the Council intends to consult on alternative approaches to delivering these statutory services; and
  - a contract with Creative Carers for training and short breaks to informal Carers. This contract will expire August 2018 if we choose to action an extension.
- 1.3 Carers at the Partnership Board have requested that the Carers Partnership Board and Carers Working Group are merged into one quarterly meeting rather than two separate meetings and to include two Carers Forums each year.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To approve further consultation and engagement activities to consider the future of the Carers assessment and emergency plan, the preferred option being to bring the service back in-house to the Community Teams.
- 2.2 To consider alternatives to providing information and signposting for Carers through the community led approach and via talking points as well as through other commissioned services such as Creative Carers, Making Space, Rethink etc.
- 2.3 To give notice to Derbyshire Carers Association that the commissioned contract will not be renewed in its current form in April 2018. The contract will therefore end at the end of the contractual period. This is normal practice as we would as a matter of course review a service at the end of its contractual period and test the market for future provision.

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- 2.4 To approve looking into the viability and potential development of a jointly funded Carers website with Derbyshire County Council to enable information and advice to be provided about relevant services and benefits, following the recommendations of Carers.
- 2.5 To approve an extension of the existing contract for the provision of short breaks and training to carers with Creative Carers until August 2018.
- 2.6 To restructure the Carers Partnership Board and Carers Working Group into one quarterly meeting supported through two Carers' Forum annually to directly engage with Carers.
- 2.7 For a detailed financial plan for the proposals to be developed and presented at People Commissioning Board in November