

Adult Social Care and Services - Support for Carers.

Background – Impact of Caring

- The 2011 UK census showed that there were approximately 6.5 million people of all ages providing unpaid care. A 2019 poll published by Carers UK indicates that this number could now be closer to 8.8 million.
- The number of people aged 65yrs or over has also grown from 1.4million in 2011 to potentially over 2 million in 2019.
- 2011 census information showed that there were 166,000 young carers between the ages of 5-17 providing support to a parent or sibling with illnesses or disabilities in the UK. The Children's Society estimate that this figure is closer to 800,000, largely due to the number of young carers who remain unidentified.
- ONS data shows that there are approximately 2,500 young or young adult carers across South Tees between the ages of 0-24.

State of Caring 2019 - key findings

In 2019, 8,000 current and former carers shared their experiences and helped inform the *State of Caring 2019* report.

- 39% responding to a national survey said they are 'struggling to make ends meet'.
- 68% reported regularly using their own income or savings to pay for care or support services, equipment or products for the person they care for.
- 12% of carers reported that they or those they support received less care or support services during the previous year due to a reduction in the amount of support from social services.
- 53% of carers said that they are not able to save for their retirement.
- 64% say that they have focussed on the care needs of the person they care for, and not on their own needs.

The Impact of Covid-19 - summary of key national findings

Passing on the virus to those they care for has been concerning carers since the start of the pandemic, with many shielding, or choosing to shield. Some have moved away from their families to live in and provide care.

- Every day of the pandemic, carers have been providing care worth £530 million.
- 81% of carers have taken on more care.
- 64% have not had a break during the pandemic.
- 64% of carers say their mental health has been impacted by Covid.
- Local authorities are seeing increasing numbers of carers asking for help because of breakdown.

Council Statutory Responsibilities & Direct Services

The Care Act 2014 put in-place significant rights for Carers in England including:

- A focus on promoting Carers' wellbeing.
- A duty on local councils to prevent, reduce and delay the need for support, including the needs of Carers.
- A right to a Carers' Assessment based on the appearance of needs.
- A right for Carers' eligible services to be met.
- A duty on Local Authorities to provide information and advice to carers in relation to their Caring role and their own needs.

Middlesbrough Council works closely with Carers' Together, The Junction, MVDA, Mind and other agencies to promote information and services for Carers.

Carers may choose to receive support from these agencies (e.g. advice, signposting, support groups, etc.) or may wish to approach Adult Social Care directly.

Adult Social Care also offers advice and guidance, signposting and links to local resources, as well as providing support directly, which often includes:

- Practical Support for the Cared for Person.

Social Work Teams complete needs-led assessment of the cared-for person.

Talking with the carer, it may be appropriate to provide additional care and support for the cared for person, in order to better support the carer.

This may include domiciliary care, personal care, sitting services to give the carer a break, attendance at a Day Centre or Respite care.

- Practical Support for Carers.

All carers are offered an Assessment in their own right to establish the effects that the caring role is having, and whether this is having a significant impact on their wellbeing.

We provide services, usually via a Direct Payment, to support the carer in their caring role.

Direct Payments give Carers more choice and control over the support they receive, which may include, but is not limited to:

- Assistance with domestic routines (e.g. gardening or housework).
- Taxi-fares / transport.
- Gym membership / recreation / therapeutic interventions.
- Provision of equipment.

Middlesbrough Council do not ask Carers to contribute financially towards the cost of the services they receive in their own right.

In the first 9 months of this financial year, 2,780 Carers Assessments were offered to Carers in Middlesbrough. This is a significant increase on the previous year (19/20) when 1,900 carers Assessments were offered.

South Tees Carers Offer

Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council, Middlesbrough Council and South Tees CCG are working on an integrated commissioning model scheduled to be tendered in June with a start date of 1st October 2021

Going forward a Commissioning sub group comprising of statutory sector colleagues from health and social care will help shape the pending specification(s). It is anticipated that a collaborative model will be developed to encourage organisations to work together to provide a holistic offer across South Tees.

South Tees Carers Forum & Strategy

The developing forum covering MBC and RCBC council areas consists of over 120 members with 5 focus groups examining the key themes in the National Carers Action Plan 2018-20. The work of the forum is helping shape the pending commission.

These key themes form the basis of the draft South Tees Carers Strategy that will outline the strategic direction over the next 3-5 years.

Core Commissioned Support Services

- Adult Carers Outreach Service delivered by Carers Together
- Young Carers Service delivered by The Junction Foundation
- Young Carers Schools Project delivered by The Junction Foundation
- We Care You Care Communication and Campaigns delivered by MVDA
- MBC & RCBC South Tees Hospital Project delivered by Carers Together
- Mental Health Project delivered by Middlesbrough & Stockton Mind

Developments

Young Adult Carers – The Junction Foundation in partnership with Carers Together were successful in securing short term funding from Commitment to Carers Mind the Gap Project funded by NHS England & NHS Improvement

Active Minds Bags – 3-6 month pilot to provide memory bags through and managed by Middlesbrough Library Service to people with dementia, their carers and family including those from BME groups. .

Dementia Advisor Service – the current service will be relocated to the newly developed Dementia Hub at Woodside. The service will be recommissioned in line with the S.Tees commission