Oxfordshire’s Joint Carer’s Strategy Refresh
Consultation Response Form

We recommend reading the background information before answering this consultation response form. The form will take approximately 5 minutes to complete. Thank you for your participation.

RESPONSES MUST BE RETURNED BY 1 FEBRUARY 2013.

Background
As part of the ongoing project to refresh the Joint Oxfordshire Carers’ Strategy, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) and their partners, together with Carers UK, have been working in partnership to better understand the local carer population and to review local support for carers.

The Priorities
A report setting out evidence on carers and caring in Oxfordshire has been compiled and based on the key findings of this report – including the views of carers, health and social care professionals, and other stakeholders – the following 7 strategic priorities for the new Joint Oxfordshire Carers’ Strategy have been selected:

- Priority 1: Improving carers’ experiences of health and social care services

  Carers have highlighted as a key need better services for the people they care for and better experiences of trying to access support.

- Priority 2: Giving carers effective support and opportunities for a break

  A majority of carers tell us that they want more effective support and opportunities for a break to help reduce the stress and other negative impacts of their caring role.

- Priority 3: Increased carer identification

  The evidence we have collected suggests that there are still a high proportion of carers in Oxfordshire who are hidden and many who are known are being identified late in their caring journey.

- Priority 4: Improving health and wellbeing of carers
Evidence clearly demonstrates that there are negative health and wellbeing consequences for people who care. Carers are significantly more likely to be in poor health – both physical and emotional – than people without caring responsibilities.

- Priority 5: Helping carers to fulfil their education, employment and training potential

Evidence demonstrates that caring impacts negatively on participation and achievement in paid work and training. For young carers, caring can have a significant negative impact on educational attainment.

- Priority 6: Supporting carers through transition to adult services

Making the transition to adult services can be a stressful and uncertain time for carers and the people they care for. Carers can be 'lost' to support if not effectively supported through the process.

- Priority 7: Helping those carers who need more support

Some groups of carers are more likely to experience the negative impacts of caring than others, including negative health and wellbeing impacts and/or barriers to accessing services.

**How will we measure progress?**

Once the priorities are agreed following this consultation, they will be the main focus of the refreshed Joint Oxfordshire Carers’ Strategy and will inform the planning and commissioning of support for all groups of carers – including young carers and those caring for people with mental health conditions – across social care and health.

All partners will be producing an action plan to deliver against these priorities and you can read more about some of the proposed actions in the main consultation document (pages 6-11).

Here are some examples:

- A project to improve carer participation in hospital discharge planning, and helping carers ensure they have the information and advice they need to achieve a successful hospital discharge.

- Introduce strategies to embed carer identification in health settings, e.g. hospital discharge practice, use of GP data/records to identify and contact ‘hidden carers’.

- Continue and expand our current offer for adult carers on access to personal budgets and flexibility in how they are used.

- Use of private sector employers as a way of identifying hidden carers in paid work and encouraging continued participation in paid work.

- Initiatives to target those groups most likely to experience negative health and/or wellbeing impacts of caring.
• Focus on what young carers need and initiatives to facilitate participation in training and paid work.
The Priorities

1) Please indicate whether you agree with each of the priorities listed below by selecting one box on each row only.

2) Please also indicate which you think should be the top three priorities out of the seven that have been proposed, by ticking the appropriate boxes.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Top 3</th>
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<td>Priority 1: Improving carers’ experiences of health and social care services</td>
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3) Do you think anything is missing from the priorities above? If so, please explain more below along with any reasons for the top three priorities you have chosen:
Measuring how we are doing
Each of the 7 proposed priorities will need to be measured to ensure we are achieving our goals. Some of the ways we propose to measure them are listed on Page 2 or in the full consultation document on Pages 6-11.

4) Are there any particular ways you think we should be using to measure how we are doing against each of the proposed priorities?

☐ Yes (please explain more below)
☐ No
☐ Don’t know

5) If you have any other suggestions for inclusion in the Joint Oxfordshire Carers’ Strategy, or comments that you would like to add, please do so here:
About you

6) I am responding as (please tick all that apply)

- A member of the public
- Carer
- A representative of LINKs
- A GP/clinician
- An NHS staff member
- An Oxfordshire County Council staff member
- Other (please state below)

7) Your age

- Under 16
- 16-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65 and over
- Prefer not to say

8) Your gender

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say

9) Your postcode (this will help to show us where we are receiving responses from across Oxfordshire and to identify any areas we are not reaching)
10) Your contact details (optional)

If you wish to receive a copy of the final strategy and a summary of the consultation responses we receive, please provide your contact details below.

RESPONSES MUST BE RETURNED BY 1 FEBRUARY 2013.

Please send completed hard copies of the consultation response form to Carers UK at the following freepost address.

FREEPOST RRYC-LTCB-GTHC
Carers UK
20 Great Dover Street
London
SE1 4LX

Thank you for taking the time to complete this consultation response form