



Buckinghamshire All-Age Carers Strategy 2025 to 2030 consultation

Open date: 4 November 2024

Close date: 15 December 2024

Name: Adults and Health

Email: carersstrategy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Overview

We want to hear your views on our draft strategy to support unpaid carers in Buckinghamshire. Tell us if you think we have identified the right priorities or if there is anything else we should be focusing on.

Unpaid carers play a crucial role in supporting the well-being of those they care for, balancing these responsibilities with their own personal and professional lives. For young carers, this also includes the challenge of maintaining their own education and relationships.

Who is an unpaid carer?

[Carers UK](#) define unpaid carers as ‘anyone who cares for someone who is ill, disabled, older, has mental health concerns or is experiencing addiction and is not paid by a company or local authority to provide care and support’.

Unpaid carers in Buckinghamshire

In the 2021 census, 5.7 million people identified themselves as unpaid carers in the UK, with 41,773 living and working within Buckinghamshire. In 2023/24, 14,349 people received support from the Council or one of our partners.

Draft Buckinghamshire All-Age Carers Strategy 2025 to 2030

Our vision is for every unpaid carer in Buckinghamshire to be recognised and valued, being able to access the information, support, and resources they need to live fulfilling lives alongside caring. We are committed to working with carers to improve people’s support and lives.

Our All-Age Carers Strategy sets out our priorities to make this vision happen, to:

- provide a system that best works for carers, by joining up services and identifying carers at the earliest stage
- ensure carers can find information and advice they need easily, when they need it
- support our carers' health and wellbeing, helping them to access support and balance their life outside of their caring role
- support carers to access employment, to minimise the financial impact of caring

These priorities were identified following feedback from carers in Buckinghamshire and support national and local strategies.

Each area of focus will have actions identified to achieve these priorities.

Tell us if you think we have chosen the right priorities and if there's anything else we should be focusing on.

Who we want to hear from

We want to hear from carers of all ages. If you are under 13 years of age, you will need to have consent from your parent or carer to take part.

We also want to hear from any one whose professional work involves the care, support or education of carers.

How the strategy has been developed

We have developed this draft strategy with carers of all ages and services who support carers and those they care for, in Buckinghamshire through:

- our online survey '[Help shape future plans for unpaid carers in Buckinghamshire](#)' ran from 22 July to 18 August 2024 and was promoted by:
 - [Integrated Care Board \(ICB\)](#)
 - local organisations including [Carers Bucks](#) and [Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust](#)
 - schools
 - council

- our face to face, and online engagement activities received feedback from:
 - adult carers
 - young adult carers aged 18-25
 - young carers aged 5-17
 - professionals
 - community organisations
- young carers session plans were developed with the support of young adult carers
- personal experiences of an adult carer and young adult carer are shared in the strategy

Related documents and links

Before you respond to this activity, please have a look at the following document on yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com:

- Buckinghamshire Draft All-Age Carers Strategy

How to have your say

You can tell us your views in one of the following ways:

- complete, and return, a printed version of the survey below
- email us at carersstrategy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- write to us at All-Age Carers Strategy consultation, Buckinghamshire Council, 5th Floor, Walton Street Offices, Aylesbury, HP20 1UA

If you have any questions about this activity, or require this information in another format or language, please email us at carersstrategy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Please tell us your views by 11:59pm on 15 December 2024.

What happens next

Your views will help us to check and update the All-Age Carers Strategy and help to inform an action plan to deliver the priorities.

Decision makers will then review the strategy for final approval before publication. We aim to launch the Buckinghamshire All-Age Carers Strategy in Spring 2025.

A group of staff, organisations and carers will create an action plan and lead on delivery to make the strategy's vision happen.

Privacy

We will use the information you provide here only for this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details. For more information about data and privacy, please see our [Privacy Policy](#).

If you have questions about data and privacy, please email us on dataprotection@buckinghamshire.gov.uk or write to our Data Protection Officer at Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF.

Buckinghamshire All-Age Carers Strategy 2025 to 2030 consultation printed survey

To provide a system that best works for carers, by joining up services and identifying carers at the earliest stage.

Our focus will be to:

- promote a carer-friendly system wide approach, helping different services, partners and businesses work together to support carers
- strengthen emergency planning and crisis support to join up support for carers
- ensure carers only need to tell their story once
- raise wider public awareness of the important role carers play in our communities
- work with partners across the whole system including schools and GP's, to ensure carers of all ages are identified in the early stages of caring; promoting the benefits of supporting the whole family
- reach out to carers of all communities, from under-represented and vulnerable groups to ensure they are identified and supported in a culturally sensitive, personalised way
- explore the 'No-Wrong-Door' approach agreed by Association of London Directors of Children's Services, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and the Carers Trust
- where young people are known to multiple services, there will be a joint approach in providing support, to ensure their needs are met

Do you agree or disagree that 'joining up services and identifying carers at the earliest stage' should be a priority for the All-Age Carers Strategy?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

Please tell us the reasons for your answer here:

Do you think these are the right areas of focus to achieve this priority?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Please tell us the reasons for your answer.

If you think there are any other areas of focus to achieve this priority, please tell us here.

If you have any other comments about 'joining up services and identifying carers at the earliest stage', please tell us here:

To ensure carers can find information and advice they need easily, when they need it.

Our focus will be to:

- ensure carers of all ages can find information and advice they need easily, and through a range of ways, engaging with carers to ensure that information is easily to understand
- develop a range of ways to proactively engage with all communities to proactively share information
- invest in training and learning for carers to ensure they can carry out their role safely and with confidence
- ensure carer assessment is timely and personalised, so carers feel it is of benefit
- develop the knowledge and skills of partners to ensure accurate information is provided to carers

Do you agree or disagree that 'carers can find information and advice easily, when they need it' should be a priority for the All-Age Carers Strategy?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

Please tell us the reasons for your answer here:

Do you think these are the right areas of focus to achieve this priority?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Please tell us the reasons for your answer.

If you think there are any other areas of focus to achieve this priority, please tell us here.

If you have any other comments about 'carers can find information and advice easily, when they need it', please tell us here:

To support our carers health and wellbeing, helping them to access support, meet other carers and prepare for the future.

Our focus will be to:

- develop new and effective ways of providing carers with a break from caring and/or keeping in touch with family and friends
- explore new ways to connect carers with other carers and promote the support of each other
- raise awareness of the impact of caring on carer mental health and the importance of emotional support
- actively support carers to plan and prepare for the future.
- work with partners to improve educational, training and employment opportunities for young carers
- provide peer support and break activities for young carers and young adult carers

Do you agree or disagree that ‘support our carers health and wellbeing, helping them to access support, meet other carers and prepare for the future’ should be a priority for the All-Age Carers Strategy?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

Please tell us the reasons for your answer here:

Do you think these are the right areas of focus to achieve this priority?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Please tell us the reasons for your answer.

If you think there are any other areas of focus to achieve this priority, please tell us here.

If you have any other comments about 'support our carers health and wellbeing, helping them to access support, meet other carers and prepare for the future', please tell us here:

To support carers in accessing employment, to minimise the financial impact of caring.

Our focus will be to:

- ensure more carers can balance work and care with support to return to work alongside or after caring
- support carers to minimise the financial impact of caring, through the promotion of good employment practices and awareness of benefits, and work with employers to develop carer friendly employers' policy
- raise awareness about the needs of carers among employers and support carers to stay in work or get back into work
- help carers obtain the benefits information and support they need

Do you agree or disagree that ‘support carers in accessing employment, to minimise the financial impact of caring’ should be a priority for the All-Age Carers Strategy?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

Please tell us the reasons for your answer here:

Do you think these are the right areas of focus to achieve this priority?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Please tell us the reasons for your answer.

If you think there are any other areas of focus to achieve this priority, please tell us here.

If you have any other comments about ‘support carers in accessing employment, to minimise the financial impact of caring’, please tell us here:

Buckinghamshire draft All-Age Carers Strategy 2025 to 2030

If you have any other comments about the draft Buckinghamshire All-Age Carers Strategy 2025 to 2030, please tell us here:

Please include any other areas of focus you feel are missing from the draft strategy.

Alongside this strategy we continue to develop our [online support offer](#) for carers, if you have any feedback about this, please tell us here:

You can view our online support offer at:

careadvice.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/support-for-carers/

About you

We will use the information you provide here only for the purpose of this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details.

Which of the following describe you?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- I live in Buckinghamshire
- I work in Buckinghamshire
- I study in Buckinghamshire
- I represent or own a business in Buckinghamshire
- I represent a community or voluntary group in Buckinghamshire
- I am an elected representative in Buckinghamshire
- I represent a Parish / Town Council or Town Committee in Buckinghamshire
- I work for Buckinghamshire Council
- Other (please give details below):

How did you find out about this consultation?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- Local media (newspaper, radio, TV, website or newsfeed)
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter/X, Instagram, Nextdoor or LinkedIn)
- Buckinghamshire Council website or Your Voice Bucks website
- Email or newsletter from Buckinghamshire Council
- Buckinghamshire Council staff or other professionals
- Through working at Buckinghamshire Council
- Poster or leaflet
- Friend or family member
- Local community or special interest group
- Councillor, town/parish council or community board
- Other (please give details below):

Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation (e.g. a business or a voluntary group)? (required)

Please tick (✓) one option

- As an individual (go to Being a carer section)
- On behalf of an organisation

On behalf of an organisation

Please provide the following details: (required)

Name of organisation:

Your job title:

End of survey if responding on behalf of an organisation

Being a carer

Do you care for someone? (required)

This may be for a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without your help.

Please tick (✓) one option.

- Yes
- No (go to About you section)
- I don't know (go to About you section)
- Completing on behalf of a young carer

Being a carer

Who do you care for? Please tick (✓) all that apply. (required)

- Child
- Parent
- Spouse
- Neighbour
- Friend
- Sibling
- Other relative
- Other (please give details below):

If you are a young carer, please tell us your age. If you are completing this on behalf of a young carer, please tell us their age. (required)

Please tick (✓) one option.

- Under 13 years
- 13 – 17 years
- 18 – 24 years
- I am not a young carer

More about you

We want to hear from as many people as possible to understand the views and needs across Buckinghamshire. The following questions help us see if the communities we serve have had the opportunity to be heard through this activity.

All questions are optional. You can skip any questions you do not wish to answer.

What is your postcode?

We want to understand the views of people living in different areas. You don't have to provide your postcode, but it helps us plan and make considered decisions.

What is your age?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different age groups.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Under 16
- 16 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 to 74
- 75 to 84
- Over 85
- Prefer not to say

Do you consider yourself to have a disability / disabilities, impairment(s) or long term health condition(s)?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of disabled people, people with impairments and people with long term health conditions.

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- Disability / disabilities
- Impairment(s)
- Long term health condition(s)
- No
- Prefer not to say

Are you:

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different sexes.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

How would you describe your ethnicity?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different ethnicities.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Asian - British
- Asian - Bangladeshi
- Asian - Chinese
- Asian - Indian
- Asian - Pakistani
- Any other Asian background - Please give details below
- Black - African
- Black - British
- Black - Caribbean

- Any other Black, African or Caribbean background - Please give details below
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Asian
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black African
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black British
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - Mixed or Multiple Ethnic backgrounds British
- Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic background - Please give details below
- White - English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
- White - Irish
- White - Gypsy or English traveller
- White - Irish Traveller
- White - European
- Any other White background - Please give details below
- Other ethnic group - Arab
- Other ethnic group - Arab British
- Other ethnic group - Please give details below
- Prefer not to say

Please give other details here:

End of the survey

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Please return your completed survey by **11:59pm on 15 December 2024**. You can:

- email it to carersstrategy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- post it to All-Age Carers Strategy consultation, Buckinghamshire Council, 5th Floor, Walton Street Offices, Aylesbury, HP20 1UA