

Commissioning Strategy for Carers to 2026

Consultation document



Adults and Communities and Children, Young People and Families
directorates working in partnership with the
Birmingham Carers' Partnership Board

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Background

Who is a carer?

A carer is someone of any age who provides unpaid support to family or friends who could not manage without this help. This could be caring for a relative, partner or friend, who is ill, frail, disabled, or has mental health or substance misuse problems.

– The Princess Royal Trust for Carers

The Birmingham Carers' Partnership Board

The Birmingham Carers' Partnership Board was formed on October 25 2006, to oversee the implementation of the Carers' Commissioning Strategy, the delivery of the resulting services, and to report to Birmingham City Council on how effectively the strategy and services are meeting the needs of all carers in Birmingham.

The Birmingham Carers' Partnership Board is made up of Birmingham based representatives from:

- carers of all ages;
- the voluntary and third sectors;
- staff from Birmingham City Council Adults and Communities and Children, Young People and Families directorates
- staff from the NHS in Birmingham.

This Carers' Commissioning Strategy looks at carers of all ages, including:

- young carers;
- parents and carers of disabled children and young people; and
- carers of older adults and vulnerable young adults.

The 2001 census identified that approximately 100,000 people in Birmingham provided unpaid care and that in 2001 there were around 4,250 young carers in Birmingham.

The Commissioning Strategy for Carers for 2026, when finalised, will contribute to the Birmingham 2026 Sustainable Community Strategy.

Birmingham 2026 is the long-term sustainable community strategy shaping Birmingham's future. It has been developed by Birmingham City Council and the local strategic partnership, Be Birmingham, which brings together partners from the business, public, community, voluntary and faith sectors, to deliver a better quality of life in Birmingham.

For more information about the Birmingham 2026 Sustainable Community Strategy, visit the website:

www.birmingham.gov.uk/carers2026

The Commissioning Strategy for Carers for 2026 will need to feature delivery plans that can both be reviewed and changed from 2012 to 2026. The first plan will cover a five year period from 2012 to 2017.

There will be opportunities for you to give us your views by attending meetings, filling out a questionnaire or sharing your views by letter or email.

Section 1

How we will consult with you

We will be asking for views on our proposals from carers, service users, city council staff, health partners and organisations that provide social care services in both the private and voluntary sectors, and the general public.

We want you to be able to give us your views through questionnaires, by email or phone and at consultation meetings.

We will listen to, and take note of all your comments.

We will publish and make widely available what we find out from the consultation and the next steps we will take. We will show where our proposals have been changed as a result of listening to people's views. Where we do not make changes to our proposals we will explain why this is the case.

We will write a report to our Cabinet including material about what we have found out through this consultation. The Cabinet is the governing body of the city council, made up of elected councillors; it is responsible for decisions on all council services. After Cabinet we will publish and make available the new strategy.

How long will this consultation run for?

This consultation begins on Monday 26 March 2012 and ends on Sunday 24 June 2012.

Who will be affected by the results of this consultation?

This consultation affects:

- all carers living in Birmingham including those who need health, or social care services;
- people living in Birmingham who may become carers in the future;
- social care service users living in Birmingham;
- Birmingham City Council staff;
- Birmingham health services organisations and their staff; and
- private and voluntary providers of carers' services and social care services.

Section 2

About you

To help us commission the services which will best meet the priorities that you have identified, we would like to ask you some questions about the support you receive in your caring role.

- See Section 1 of the questionnaire

Section 3

Our proposals

What is the vision of the Birmingham Carers' Partnership Board?

In creating a carers strategy for Birmingham, the Board has chosen to work with the national framework and vision for carers published by the Department of Health, called 'Carers at the heart of 21st-century families and communities', first published in June 2008.

To view a copy of the document, visit our consultation website:

www.birmingham.gov.uk/carers2026

Outcomes

In the Department of Health's 'Carers at the heart of 21st-century families and communities' **strategy document**, the vision for carers states that:

'Carers will be universally recognised and valued as being fundamental to strong families and stable communities. Support will be tailored to meet individuals' needs, enabling carers to maintain a balance between their caring responsibilities and a life outside caring, while enabling the person they support to be a full and equal citizen.'

The Birmingham Carers' Partnership Board has considered the **five outcomes contained within 'Carers at the heart of 21st-century families and communities' strategy document** and proposes to slightly amend them to reflect local needs:

Department of Health Outcome 1

- Carers will be respected as expert care partners and will have access to the integrated and personalised services they need to support them in their caring role.

Proposed Birmingham Outcome 1

- No change proposed in Birmingham
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Department of Health Outcome 2

- Carers will be able to have a life of their own alongside their caring role.

Proposed Birmingham Outcome 2

- No change proposed in Birmingham
-

Department of Health Outcome 3

- Carers will be supported so they are not forced into financial hardship by their caring role.

Proposed Birmingham Outcome 3

- Carers will be supported to help develop a range of skills so that they are not forced into financial hardship by their caring role and are supported to lead fulfilling lives
-

Department of Health Outcome 4

- Carers will be supported to stay mentally and physically well and treated with dignity.

Proposed Birmingham Outcome 4

- Carers will be supported to stay mentally and physically well and will be treated with dignity and respect
-

Department of Health Outcome 5

- Children and young people will be protected from inappropriate caring and have the support they need to learn, develop and thrive and to enjoy positive childhoods.

Proposed Birmingham Outcome 5

- Children and young people with caring responsibilities will have the support they need to learn, develop, thrive and enjoy positive childhoods.

The Board also wishes to make clear that the proposed Birmingham outcomes embrace everyone's needs and circumstances, including their age, gender, disability, religion, race and sexual orientation.

- **See Section 2 of the questionnaire.**
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Priorities and local initiatives

In November 2010 the Department of Health published a further strategy.

'Recognised, valued and supported: next steps for the Carers Strategy', which built upon the vision and outcomes in the 'Carers at the heart of 21st-century families and communities' strategy document, which identifies four priority areas.

To view a copy of the document visit the website below and follow the instructions.

Website: **www.birmingham.gov.uk/carers2026**

The Birmingham Carers' Partnership Board proposes to broadly support the national strategy, but wishes to split Priority 1 into two parts.

Below are the Department of Health's four priorities and the four proposed Birmingham Priorities for carers. Listed below each of the proposed Birmingham priorities is a list of proposed local initiatives to help deliver these priorities.

Department of Health Priority 1

Supporting those with caring responsibilities to identify themselves as carers at an early stage, recognising the value of their contribution and involving them from the outset both in designing local care provision and in planning individual care packages.

Proposed Birmingham Priority 1

Priority 1a Supporting those with caring responsibilities to identify themselves as carers at an early stage

Priority 1b Recognise the value of their contribution and involve them from the outset both in designing local care provision and in planning individual care packages.

Proposed Birmingham Priority 1a local initiatives

- GPs to take lead on early recognition of carers and signpost and support accordingly.
- More media coverage for helping people recognise themselves as carers.
- Greater number of outlets for information and advocacy.

Priority Birmingham Priority 1b local initiatives

- Carers need to have opportunity to attend forums/meetings/support groups.

Department of Health Priority 2

Enabling those with caring responsibilities to fulfil their educational and employment potential.

Proposed Birmingham Priority 2

- no change proposed in Birmingham

Proposed Birmingham Priority 2 local initiatives

- All young carers of school age to have access to technology at home for their learning and friendships.
- Help carers find and take up learning (including IT training) to fit in with their caring role.
- Make sure carers looking for, or in work, can get flexible hours and help to keep their jobs.

Department of Health Priority 3

Personalised support both for carers and those they support, enabling them to have a family and community life.

Proposed Birmingham Priority 3

- no change proposed in Birmingham

Proposed Birmingham Priority 3 local initiatives

- Provision of additional personalised support for carers caring for someone through end of life.
- Good communication between health, social care and other relevant agencies so that all have access to the same info.

Department of Health Priority 4

Supporting carers to remain mentally and physically well.

Proposed Birmingham Priority 4

- no change proposed in Birmingham

Proposed Birmingham Priority 4 local initiatives

- Carers can get emotional support by sharing experiences with other carers in a range of ways such as support groups, internet forums, by phone.
- Help to set up and run carer's support groups.
- All local communities to be encouraged to recognise and support carers.
- Care options for the cared for person so the carer can get a short break, including respite.
- Encourage and support carers to take part in activities to improve their health and quality of life and plan for the future.
- Reduce stress through training for carers in aspects of care.
- See Section 2 of the questionnaire

Everyone realises that money is very stretched, whether at home or in the public or voluntary sectors. Therefore we must make sure that we concentrate on achieving the things that are most important to carers and we would like to know what you think we should try and achieve over the next two years.

- See Section 2 of the questionnaire

Section 4

How can you take part?

Commissioning Strategy for Carers to 2026 Consultation

You can give us your views in the following ways.

1. Completing an online questionnaire

View the consultation document on our website:

www.birmingham.gov.uk/carers2026

and complete the online survey, hosted by Survey Monkey.
Full instructions are on the web page.

2. Completing a paper questionnaire

Phone or email our Professional Support Services Team for a paper copy of the consultation document and questionnaire, and return it in the FREEPOST envelope supplied.

Phone: **0121 303 5154**

Email: **carers2026@birmingham.gov.uk**

If you do not have a FREEPOST envelope you can return your completed questionnaire to:

**FREEPOST RSTH-GAKE-LCKA
Carers Consultation 2012
Customer Care and Citizen Involvement Team
6th Floor, Louisa Ryland House
44 Newhall Street
Birmingham
B3 3PL**

If you use this full address you do not need to use a stamp.

3. You can also write to us or email us your views about this consultation.

Write to:

**FREEPOST RSTH-GAKE-LCKA
Carers Consultation 2012
Customer Care and Citizen Involvement Team
6th Floor, Louisa Ryland House
44 Newhall Street
Birmingham
B3 3PL**

If you use this full address you do not need to use a stamp.

Email: carers2026@birmingham.gov.uk

This consultation closes on **Sunday 24 June 2012.**

Any questions

If you have any questions about taking part in this consultation:

Phone: **0121 303 5154**

Email: carers2026@birmingham.gov.uk

Alternative formats

This consultation is available in an 'easy to read' format from our website.

Website: www.birmingham.gov.uk/carers2026

The consultation can also be completed on the Askability website.

Askability website:

www.askability.org.uk/championquestionnaire_8

To request a copy of the 'easy to read' consultation document and questionnaire, or if you would like this document in an alternative format, please contact us:

Phone: **0121 303 5154**

Email: carers2026@birmingham.gov.uk