The Carers Partnership is made up of local carers, voluntary sector organisations (charities) working with carers and statutory organisations such as Bexley council. The aim of the partnership is to work together to make a positive impact in the lives of carers in Bexley and raise awareness of issues which local carers may face.

This action plan sets out the work we plan to do this year to achieve our aim. It follows on from engagement with carers to create the original Carers Action Plan 2021-2023, a review of our progress to achieving those actions and our ongoing conversations and work with carers. Some of the things that carers have told us which have helped us prioritise our actions:

* that they felt their health and wellbeing is affected by their caring role
* they feel more isolated
* they find it difficult to find information about support available
* there were opportunities for support available which they weren’t aware of or fully understood such as direct payments, respite and emergency plans
* they wanted to be more involved in helping to design ways of supporting carers in the borough

**Our Plans for 2025-2026**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Theme: Communication and awareness** | | | | | | |
| **What we want to achieve** | **How we will do it** | **By When** | | **Who will lead** | | **How will we know we have been successful** |
| To improve carers knowledge and awareness of support available | Set up a quarterly communications sub-group of the Carers Partnership to oversee communications activity and impact. | April 2025 | | VW | | Regular meetings with consistent attendance and feedback to the partnership. |
| Set up Carers Corners in Bexley libraries, pharmacies, GP surgeries and community spaces. | September 2025 | | Comms Group | | Established in:   * 75% of libraries * 10 pharmacies * 10 GP surgeries |
| Regularly contribute to and enhance the Bexley carers e-bulletin. | Ongoing | Comms Group | | | Increased cross-section of contributions from partners in every issue |
| Map communication channels to carers and address identify gaps. | July 2025 | Comms Group | | | A comprehensive map of communication channels  Actions in progress to close identified gaps. |
| Ensure that the carers website has information about the Carers Partnership and Carers Action Plan with regular updates. | Ongoing | KL | | | Improved website analytics (e.g. higher engagement rates) |
| To improve awareness and understanding of carers strengths, and challenges they face, with the people who work with them | Deliver Carers Awareness training to statutory and voluntary sector organisations | December 2025 | Comms Group | | | A completed training programme with feedback from attendees. |
| **Theme: Engagement** | | | | | | |
| **What we want to achieve** | **How we will do it** | **By When** | **Who will lead** | | | **How will we know we have been successful** |
| There is opportunity for a wide range of carer views and voices to be involved and considered in local planning and discussion | Involve young carers/representatives, working age carers and Children’s Services in the partnership meetings and work | December 2025 | AR | | | Representation of each group in meetings or feedback processes |
| Engage parent carer organisations in partnership or communication groups | May 2025 | KL | | | Active participation from parent carer representatives |
| Consider including a Community Champion in the partnership or communication sub-group. | June 2025 | VW & AR/  Partnership | | | Community Champion role defined and filled. |
| Review and finalise an updated Partnership Terms of reference. | April 2025 | VW & AR/ Partnership | | | A terms of reference document, agreed by the partnership. A document that guides us but reflects the language, model and approach of the partnership. |
| Carers feel more involved in planning and decisions to meet their needs | Pilot three engagement events to explore creating an online or other carers forum. | December 2025 | Engagement Group | | | Engagement events held, with recommendations for future forum. |
| Work with Adult Social Care to progress their Carer Survey actions including responsive and accessible services and accessibility of information. | October 2025 | IB/DT | | | Carer Survey actions are reviewed and discussed regularly by the partnership with a range of views considered. |
| **Theme: Carer Wellbeing** | | | | | | |
| **What we want to achieve** | **How we will do it** | **By When** | | | **Who will lead** | **How will we know we have been successful** |
| Carers have improved health and wellbeing and feel more supported in their roles and as individuals | Establish a carers wellbeing sub-group to coordinate wellbeing initiatives. | April 2025 | | | Partnership | Sub-group established and meeting regularly, feeding back to the Partnership. |
| Hold a series of health and wellbeing workshops for carers. | March 2026 | | | Wellbeing Group | Workshop attendance and feedback received |
| Develop Carers Champions in organisations to advocate for carers. | October 2025 | | | Partnership | Champions identified and trained in key organisations. |
| Carers are better informed and supported to get a break from their caring role and plan for the future | Increase awareness and uptake of the carers emergency plan and Carers Card. | November 2025 | | | Comms Group | Increased uptake  User feedback |
| Support Adult Social Care to promote “Your Life, Your Choice” care finder tool to carers. | July 2025 | | | Partnership/  DT | Increased usage of the care finder tool. |
| Support Adult Social Care initiatives such as the listening event specifically focused on respite services for carers. | October 2025 | | | Partnership | Feedback report |
| Through partnership and collaboration increase carer awareness of Carers Assessments and Direct Payments | March 2026 | | | Comms Group/  Partnership | Increased uptake of Carer Assessments and Direct payments. |

**Future plans and other areas of work**

We know that there is much more that can be done but want to be realistic in what we can achieve in a year. However, we’re keen to make sure that we do not lose sight of our longer term or other goals, which include:

* Exploring digital inclusion and how we can support carers to develop digital skills. Potentially linking with existing services such as BVSC
* Continuing to identify challenges and support developments to the Blue Badge and Freedom Pass system in Bexley
* Continuing work to understand the legal context around parent carer assessments and how they are carried out in Bexley
* Exploring ways which the Carers Partnership can influence changes and/or expansion to vital respite services in the borough

Timeline

Description automatically generated