

SOUTH TEES CARERS STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2026/27

This document defines priorities and actions agreed by members of the South Tees Carers Forum to be achieved during the final year of the South Tees Carers Strategy and beyond. Progress against actions will be monitored quarterly via the South Tees Commissioning Group and Forum. Where required working groups will be established to focus on specific actions.

1. Services and systems that work for carers

Priorities

Ensure carers have access to quality, timely and appropriate support services, ensure that unpaid carers are supported to understand and access services offered within their Local Authority. Prioritising mental health and wellbeing of the unpaid carer as a primary focus, improve identification and recognition of carers within health and social care systems, enhance collaboration between services to provide seamless and integrated support for carers.

Action	Lead(s)	Deadline
Review Carers Awareness Training for Social Care Practitioners in Redcar and Cleveland.	RCBC Commissioner/Ops	Q2 2026/27
Embed Carers Awareness Training for Social Care Practitioners in Middlesbrough (commencing June 2026).	MBC Ops Lead	
Redcar and Cleveland to review their current Carers Assessment and roll out a revised Strength Based Carers Conversation Record.	RCBC Ops	Q1 2027/28
Middlesbrough to continue to embed Strengths Based Carers Conversation Record	MBC Ops Lead	
Middlesbrough to undertake a 12-month pilot project whereby Carers' Together will be a Trusted Assessor, completing Carers' Conversations on behalf on Middlesbrough Council.	MBC Ops Lead / Commissioners.	Q1 2027/28
Review replacement care services across South Tees to confirm that support is appropriately commissioned for the cared-for person—the primary beneficiary—while also acknowledging and strengthening the important secondary benefit this provides to carers. Reviews will be conducted separately in both LA Areas.	RCBC Ops /Commissioners	Q2 2027/28
	MBC Ops Lead	Q2 2027/28
Strengthen the role of carers within the hospital discharge process as part of the wider No Place Like Home Project by ensuring consistent recognition and use of the Carer's Passport / Charter across STHFT.	RCBC Ops MBC Ops Lead	Q2 2026/27

2. Employment and financial wellbeing

Priorities

Increase awareness of support for carers to balance employment and caring responsibilities if it is their choice to do so, Encourage employers to identify carers and to develop carer-friendly policies and procedures that are consistent across the workforce, Ensure that the financial impact of unpaid caring is seen as a primary focus, Promote financial wellbeing of carers and ensure transparency about the available support and benefits for unpaid carers.

Action	Lead(s)	Deadline
Continue to raise the profile of carers employment rights (Carers Leave Regulations 2024) and support employers to become carer confident by introducing carer-friendly policies and procedures and carers passports.	WCYC Chair T&F Group	Q2 26/27

3. Supporting young carers

Improve identification of young carers to offer a tailored service that meets their needs, minimise the negative impact of caring responsibilities on young carers' education, wellbeing and future opportunities. Continue to support schools, colleges and universities to provide appropriate support for young carers.

Continue to support young carers through transition into adulthood.

Action	Lead(s)	Deadline
Review Carers Awareness Training for Social Care Practitioners in Redcar and Cleveland. Embed Carers Awareness Training for Social Care Practitioners in Middlesbrough (commencing June 2026).	MBC/RCBC Commissioners/Ops Lead ST Providers	Q2 26/27
Explore how both Local Authorities capture young carers data across systems.	RCBC Children's SI Officer/Commissioners MBC Ops Lead	Q3 26/27

4. Recognising and supporting carers in the wider community

Priorities

Increase public awareness of unpaid carers and their contributions, focus on addressing social isolation of unpaid carers, ensure that carers' voices are central to decision-making, recognise changes in caring roles over time and identify under-represented groups of carers.

Action	Lead(s)	Deadline
Continue to run regular targeted unpaid carers campaigns. - Carers Week	We Care You Care / Mobilise	Q4 2026/27
Ensure the voices of carers influence decisions - review Carers Forum Structure and implement revised model from April 2027 through co-production groups.	RCBC/MBC Commissioners	Q4 2026/27

5. Building research and evidence to improve outcomes for carers

Priorities

Expand on existing knowledge and use evidence-based approaches to improve policies and support services for carers, ensure that research findings are translated into practical support and policy changes and use evidence to offer innovative solutions to support carers

Action	Lead(s)	Deadline
Conduct research to identify innovative ways to support carers using TEC	RCBC/MBC Commissioning and Operational Leads	Q4 2026/27
Develop a proposal for a shared quantitative impact reporting dashboard, including the establishment of a Performance Reporting Task and Finish Group. The group will define agreed performance measures, reporting arrangements, data sources, and partner data contributions to support consistent impact monitoring and performance reporting across the partnership.	RCBC/MBC Commissioning	Q4 2026/27