

## Proposed Pilot Project: Support for Unpaid Carers – Access to leisure

### **Project Outline**

This project will explore the service impact and associated costs/benefits of providing unpaid carers with (free) access to council-provided leisure facilities via the sports and leisure centres across the district (gym/swimming etc).

### **Project Overview**

This Project is being considered at the express request of Carers in Devon through the (County-level) Carers Partnership Steering Group.

By way of context, unpaid carers are roughly one in six of all citizens, and we know about 42,000 across the county through the Integrated Adult Social Care service and the commissioned provider of carer services, 'Devon Carers'. The economic value of carers' unpaid work to the health and social care economy is now estimated at £2.9 billion per annum in Devon. On balance, carers are poorer and less healthy than the non-caring population, and typically put caring for their own wellbeing behind that of the person(s) for whom they care. Encouraging healthy exercise is particularly important in maintaining Carers' own health and wellbeing and, by extension, the wellbeing of those for whom they care, by maintain the caring role.

### **Project Description**

This project will utilise existing identification methods to administer access at leisure sites. The 'Carers Passport' is a pre-existing authentication regime and will ensure that leisure centre staff can effectively administer/record the demand through this project i.e. there will be no additional verification procedure required at site level. Such an approach may also have the benefit of publicising the Carers Passport scheme more widely and increasing take-up, which will help DCC better understanding and manage the network of support across the county.

The project will run for 6 months from 1<sup>st</sup> July until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 to allow for a representative period to be assessed and to allow for evaluation to take place in the first quarter of 2023.

The pilot project will provide free access to a service that is currently restricted by price, therefore it is important to understand the potential demand and the possible take-up. There are approximately 1818 holders of Carers Passports in the Mid Devon area (see table 1 below for parish breakdown) and while it is possible for (Carers) passport holders to participate in the pilot from across the wider county, it is considered unlikely that carers would be willing or able to travel long distances, meaning the amount of cross-border movement anticipated seems likely to be at low levels. As such, the likely demand can be assessed as this cohort, plus any further expansions in Carers Passports within Mid Devon.

### **Project Evaluation**

At the most fundamental level, the evaluation metrics need to include the numbers of carers accessing the leisure sites. It would also be useful to understand the proportion of one-off and repeat visits by carers. For this pilot project, that is probably sufficient so as not to add an impractical administrative burden on carers or leisure staff.

It has been confirmed that leisure staff will record each visit: date/time and purpose (gym/swim etc) and will ask the user whether this is their first visit or a repeat visit. This will be evaluated after the end of the pilot.

It may be that wider surveys of passport holders can be done retrospectively to capture a qualitative evaluation of both take-up and personal sense of value (i.e. how much did it help them, did it help them move into a new space in the Carers Wheel (an outcome measurement tool developed in Devon over 10 years alongside carers and health and social care staff).

Table 1. Spread of carers with Carer Passports currently in Mid Devon, broken down by parish

Bampton	34	Kentisbeare	12
Bickleigh	9	Lapford	37
Bow	25	Loxbeare	3
Bradninch	50	Morchard Bishop	26
Brushford	1	Morebath	4
Burlescombe	22	Newton St. Cyres	21
Butterleigh	2	Nymet Rowland	5
Cadbury	3	Oakford	6
Cadeleigh	5	Poughill	6
Chawleigh	22	Puddington	3
Cheriton Bishop	25	Sampford Peverell	33
Cheriton Fitzpaine	14	Sandford	33
Clannaborough	5	Shobrooke	23
Clayhanger	3	Silverton	45
Clayhidon	10	Stockleigh Pomeroy	4
Coldridge	7	Stoodleigh	10
Colebrooke	7	Templeton	5
Copplestone	24	Thelbridge	7
Crediton	190	Thorverton	24
Crediton Hamlets	36	Tiverton	511
Cruwys Morchard	12	Uffculme	69
Cullompton	205	Uplowman	5
Culmstock	14	Upton Hellions	1
Down St. Mary	6	Washfield	10
Halberton	38	Washford Pyne	1
Hemyock	39	Wembworthy	1
Hittisleigh	4	Willand	80
Hockworthy	2	Woolfardisworthy	3
Holcombe Rogus	4	Zeal Monachorum	6
Huntsham	3	<b>Mid Devon</b>	<b>1818</b>
Kennerleigh	3		