

Scrutiny Review Proposal – Form A

This form should be completed by sponsoring member(s) or officers when proposing an item for consideration with the work programme of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The relevant Overview and Scrutiny committee reserves the right to reject suggestions or suggest alternative means for resolving the issues raised.

Proposer's Name and Title	Cllr Rosie Herring, after referral by Council of a motion presented to the meeting on 29 June 2023	Date	13 September 2023
Proposed Topic Title		Support for unpaid carers in West Northamptonshire	
Background and reason for including the item in the Committee's work programme		<p>Millions of people in the United Kingdom care for loved ones, providing a range of support to people who can't care for themselves or who need help to live independently. The developing West Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy identifies that over 9,000 people provide more than 50hrs unpaid care per week in the authority. Providing unpaid care can have a detrimental impact on carers' own health and wellbeing and carers can find it difficult to balance caring responsibilities with other parts of their lives. Scrutiny of this topic is intended to help to understand the situation of unpaid carers in West Northamptonshire and to identify whether more should be done to recognise and support them. In turn, this will help to maintain the contribution that unpaid carers make to managing overall demand on health and social care services.</p> <p>This proposal is for scrutiny of support for adult unpaid carers. It is recognised that young people can also be unpaid carers. Scrutiny of support for unpaid carers of all ages would be a broader piece of work that would also concern both the Adult Social Care and Health and the Children, Education and Housing Overview and Scrutiny committees.</p>	

<p>Link to the Council’s Corporate Priorities</p>	<p>The proposed scrutiny review is intended to support the Council’s vision to make West Northamptonshire a place where people are supported to live independent, self-sufficient lives and where everyone has the best life chances. The proposed scrutiny review relates to the Council’s corporate priority to support adults in West Northamptonshire to live independent and self-sufficient lives for as long as possible. Where they are vulnerable or lack a support network the Council will provide the support they need. The Council will work with health in more integrated ways ensuring our residents can “chase well, stay well and live well.”</p>
<p>Key Objectives</p>	<p>The scrutiny review will consider and provide constructive challenge on the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Northamptonshire Council’s preparedness to meet additional requirements relating to support for employees with caring responsibilities introduced by the Carers Leave Act 2023, which will take effect in 2024. • The effectiveness of the support for unpaid carers provided by West Northamptonshire Council as part of its statutory responsibilities for adult social care. • The development of a new West Northamptonshire Council Carers Strategy during 2023/24. <p>The scrutiny review will seek to understand where existing services work well and where plans for the future appear robust. It will seek to identify where there are areas for improvement and make evidence-based recommendations intended to address these.</p>

Measure of effectiveness	The scrutiny review results in the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee making practical, timely recommendations intended to enhance the support provided to unpaid carers in West Northamptonshire, which are presented to the Cabinet and/or other responsible decision-makers for consideration.
Spotlight or full review	Full