

Adult Social Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Agenda Item 09

Subject: *Carers' Joint Commissioning Strategy*
Date of Meeting: 18 June 2009
Report of: *Joy Hollister*
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Key Decision: Yes Forward Plan No. (7 Digit Ref):
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The draft Carers' Development and Commissioning Strategy 2009 - 2012 sets out the vision for the future development and commissioning of services to support carers in Brighton and Hove for the next three years. It is a joint strategy across Brighton & Hove City Council and NHS Brighton and Hove.
- 1.2 Two draft strategies are attached. Appendix 1 is the draft consultation document that summarises the background information and suggested priorities for the strategy. Appendix 2 is the draft strategy document in full with more detailed priorities and commissioning implications set out.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That members consider and contribute to the draft strategy.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

3.1 Local Information

At the time of the 2001 Census 21,800 people identified themselves as carers in Brighton and Hove. This is 9% of the population and includes almost 500 young carers aged 8-17. Almost 4,000 carers (18%) are caring for more than one person and almost 10,000 (46%) have been caring for five or more years.

3.2 Strategy Development

The strategy has been developed by the Joint Commissioner for Carers Services working Brighton & Hove City Council and NHS Brighton and Hove together with the Carers Strategy Group. The key principles of the strategy reflect those in the National Carers Strategy published in June

2008. The strategy encompasses all carers including parent carers.

3.3 Objectives of Strategy

The overall objectives of the strategy are:

- *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;*
- *carers will be able to have a life of their own alongside their caring role;*
- *carers will be supported so that they are not forced into financial hardship by their caring role;*
- *carers will be supported to stay mentally and physically well and treated with dignity;*
- *children and young people will be protected from inappropriate caring and have the support they need to learn, develop and thrive, to enjoy positive childhoods and to achieve against all the Every Child Matters outcomes.*

The key priorities and commissioning recommendations set out in the draft strategy propose how these objectives will be met.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1

The Carers Strategy Group is chaired by the Head of Partnerships and Public Engagement at the PCT and includes representatives from the following organisations: BSUH, SPFT, SDHT, CYPT, Amaze, the Alzheimers' Society, the Carers Centre, Crossroads and the universities.

The third sector stakeholder involvement brings a wide range of carers' views to the table through their work both with individual carers and with carers' support groups.

In addition there has been direct consultation with carers on the strategy to date with a focus group of older carers of people with mental health needs, discussion tables at the International Day of Disabled People (December 2008) and the Carers Forum (March 2009) and a meeting with young carers.

Comments obtained during consultation have been incorporated into the draft strategy.

4.2 The following consultation is planned for the future:

- A city-wide carers' survey has been commissioned from the Carers Centre and will be carried out in June during Carers Week.
- The consultation document is currently posted on the council and PCT websites.

Feedback obtained from future consultation will be used to shape service developments.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 The assumption is that future services will be delivered within the existing financial envelope. Current services will be re-designed where appropriate to optimise carer outcomes, meet policy requirements and deliver value for money. Any new resource allocation would be subject to business case development and approval.

The City Council's Carers Grant forms part of the Area Based Grant and for 2009/10 the funding available for Carers will be approximately £1 million.

A breakdown of the current allocation of funding for carers' services is detailed in the Strategy at 3.5 and 3.6, page 10.

The National Carers Strategy "***Carers at the heart of 21st-century families and communities***" contained a new funding commitment for the provision of breaks to carers. The money is allocated to PCTs to administer, although it is allocated in total at a national level. The amount provided to the PCT for funding is not ringfenced, or specifically identified in the 'general uplift' awarded to the PCT. However, Carers organisations have calculated the likely PCT 'allocation' and the PCT has agreed that the basis of these figures are reasonable. The suggested allocations for NHS Brighton and Hove are:

- £275K for 2009/10 and
- £546K for 2010/11.

PCTs are required to publish joint plans for the provision of breaks taking account of the new money allocated to PCTs and the existing Carers Grant allocated to local authorities. The additional funding can be used to provide a wide range of services from relief care, leisure services and breaks with the cared for person.

The PCT has set aside specific funding for Carers and Business Cases have been submitted against this. Once approved via the business case process, funding for Carers will be made available, although the PCT will also have to be mindful of the full range of pressures on resources as financial circumstances change moving into 2010/2011.

Finance Officer Consulted: Anne Silley
Jonathan Reid

Date: 07/04/09
01/06/09

5.2 Legal Implications:

This report provides details of the local strategy for carers and proposals for the implementation of the National Strategy within Brighton and Hove. The proposals are therefore in keeping with Central Government guidance. The local consultation process must ensure that all parties/organisations likely to have an interest in or be affected by the proposed implementation of the strategy are included in that process, that there is ample time for responses and measures are in place to enable those under disability to participate fully and equally in providing their views.

The proposals for implementation of the Strategy take account of carers and their families ECHR Article 8 Rights (Family Life) and the proposed consultation process ensures fairness in accordance with Article 6.

Layer Consulted: Sandra O'Brien

Date: 31/03/09

5.3 Equalities Implications:

One of the key priorities in the draft strategy is to develop equality of access to services for all carers including BME carers, LGBT carers, parent carers, young carers and older carers.

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed and is attached at Appendix 3. This will be published as part of the consultation process for the strategy. The actions arising from this will be integrated into the delivery plan for the strategy.

Sustainability Implications:

Carers belong to every community in the city. Therefore supporting carers is key to the development of sustainable communities.

5.5 Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.6 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

Implementation of the Carers Strategy is key to delivering the LAA target NI 135 which is one of the city's agreed top 35 stretch targets: **Carers receiving needs assessment or review and a specific carer's service, or advice and information**

5.7 Corporate / Citywide Implications:

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. draft consultation document
2. draft development and commissioning strategy document
3. Equalities Impact Assessment

Documents In Members' Rooms

- 1.
- 2.

Background Documents

1. ***Carers at the heart of 21st-century families and communities, Department of Health 2008***