

Adult Social Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Agenda Item 34

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Carers Strategy
Date of Meeting: 06/11/08
Report of: The Director of Adult Social Care and Housing
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Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report summarises the key areas in the national strategy for carers "*Carers at the heart of 21st-century families and communities*" which was published in June 2008 and informs Members of plans for how this may be implemented in Brighton and Hove.
- 1.2 The report also updates members on other key developments relating to carers in the city.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To note the information in this report.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 A summary of the key issues in the national strategy is attached at **Appendix 1**. The Multi-Agency Carers Strategy Group is addressing the implications of the strategy for Brighton and Hove. A new post of Joint Commissioner for Carers' Services has been agreed between Adult Social Care and the PCT. This will enable the development of a strategic commissioning strategy for carers and a joint approach to the implementation of the new national strategy. One of the key targets for our local strategy will include ensuring that we are identifying and meeting the needs of BME carers and carers from other disadvantaged groups such as LGBT carers.
- 3.2 The City Council agreed that one of the 35 LAA stretch targets for 2008/09 to 2010/11 would be NI 135: Carers receiving needs assessment or review and a specific carer's service, or advice and information. We are forecast to exceed this

year's target of 16%. One of the ways we currently offer assessments to carers is through three voluntary sector organisations: Carers Centre for young carers; Patched for carers of substance misusers; Alzheimer's Society for carers of people with dementia. This model enables carers to be offered services directly following their assessment and prevents duplication of work in identifying carers' needs.

- 3.3 Carers' issues have been included in the redesign of services through the personalisation agenda in the following ways:
- Access Point – 6 month secondment from the Carers Centre was set up to raise awareness of carers' issues; provide support, information and advice to staff and ensure carers received appropriate advice, information and signposting to community services or referral to specialist workers during the initial months of this service.
 - Reablement – carers will be involved wherever appropriate. As part of the evaluation it will be vital to consider the impact on carers as well as users.
 - Case management and reviews – consideration of carers' assessments will be integral to the whole process and it is proposed that the majority of carers needs assessment work should be mainstreamed in order to focus resources on delivering more direct care and support to carers and enable carers to be offered Individualised Budgets.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The Department of Health carried out a wide range of consultation across the country to inform the national strategy.
- 4.2 The development of a strategic commissioning strategy for carers will include appropriate consultation.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 Any financial implications as a result of new service developments for carers will be met from within the Carers Grant. This now forms part of the Area Based Grant and for 2009/10 the funding available for Carers will be approximately £1 million.

Finance Officer Consulted: Mike Bentley

Date: 13th October 2008

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 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.

Lawyer Consulted: Sandra O'Brien

Date: 15.10.08

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Caring can lead to significant disadvantage in terms of income, health and employment. Many carers may also experience discrimination due to their age, disability, ethnicity, etc. The development of a Strategic Commissioning Strategy for Carers will include an Equalities Impact Assessment to ensure that these issues are fully addressed.

Sustainability Implications:

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

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 None

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 None

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. ***Carers at the heart of 21st-century families and communities – briefing paper***

Background Documents

[List any background / supporting documents referred to or used in the compilation of the report. The documents must be made available to the public upon request for four years after the decision has been taken]

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

