

Partnership Board for Health and Wellbeing Report

Date: 15th September 2010

Report Title: Joint Carers Commissioning Strategy 2010-2014

Agenda Item: 11

List of attachments to this report: Joint Carers Commissioning Strategy

Summary

Purpose

- 1 To present the Joint Carers Commissioning Strategy for Bath & North East Somerset 2010-2014 to the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board; which focuses specifically on the needs of adult carers aged 18 years and over who provide unpaid care for other adults.

Recommendation

- 2 The Partnership Board for Health and Wellbeing is asked to **endorse** the view of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel for Healthier Communities and Older People that this strategy successfully captures (1) the issues relating to supporting Carers both nationally and locally and (2) clearly outlines the joint approach that will be taken to meet the four high level outcomes set out in the National Carers' Strategy 'Carers at the heart of the 21st-century families and communities'.
- 3 The Partnership Board for Health and Wellbeing is asked to **recommend** to the Cabinet member for Adult Social Services and Housing that the Joint Carers Commissioning Strategy be adopted.
- 4 The Health and Social Services Committee is asked to **approve** the strategy on behalf of the PCT Board

Rationale

- 5 The Carers Commissioning Strategy seeks to ensure that there will be support available in Bath & North East Somerset to allow carers to maintain a balance between their caring responsibilities and a life outside of caring.

The strategy builds on the Carers' Strategic Plan of 2005-2008, and looks to further develop the Carers agenda, recognising the changing policy and legislative landscape; decreasing public sector finance; the views of Bath & North East Somerset Carers and; takes account of social and demographic changes.

Other Options Considered

- 6 None

Financial Implications

- 7 The Joint Carers Commissioning Strategy attached as Appendix 1 sets out existing patterns of investment by both the Local Authority and the Primary Care Trust (PCT) in supporting carers in Bath & North East Somerset. It also outlines commissioning intentions, based on both national and local guidance and evidence of how carers can best be supported. Current patterns of investment by both the Council and PCT are as outlined in the following report.

Risk Management

- 8 A risk assessment related to the issues and recommendations contained within the strategy will be undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

Equality issues

- 9 An Equalities Impact assessment will be carried out using Council corporate guidelines.

This Strategy is specific to carers of adults of all backgrounds and ethnicity in Bath & North East Somerset and aims to support both the carers who choose to make contact with health and social care services as well as those who choose not to.

Legal Issues

- 10 None identified- the local strategy is drafted in response to the National Carers Strategy and meets those obligations.

Engagement & Involvement

- 11 The development of this strategy has taken into account the views of a range of stakeholders in order to ensure that the strategic direction will go some way to meeting the needs of Carers in Bath & North East Somerset and accurately reflects the priorities for service planning and delivery. Carers will be involved in the implementation and continuous review of this joint Commissioning Strategy.
- 12 A number of mechanisms have been used to ensure that this Joint Commissioning Strategy clearly reflected the views and concerns of carers, including focus groups, forums and postal surveys. For example, a Carers Forum event was facilitated by The Care Network on the 10th February 2010. Carers were invited to look in detail at the National Strategy and provide feedback on what they would want to see happen locally for carers. The feedback received from this event and previous consultation events held with carers has been particularly influential in the development of this Strategy.
- 13 The draft Strategy has been reviewed favourably by Carers UK who undertook a review of Carers' Strategies across the South West. The feedback received stated that the Strategy was very comprehensive and positive with lots of actions and highlighted the good work already in place. A key recommendation was that closer linkage to the National Strategy needed to be made. This recommendation has been actioned.

- 14 This joint draft Commissioning Strategy was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel for Healthier Communities and Older People on the 6th July 2010. The Panel felt that the strategy successfully captured (1) the issues relating to supporting Carers both nationally and locally and (2) clearly outlined the joint approach that will be taken to meet the four high level outcomes set out in the National Carers' Strategy 'Carers at the heart of the 21st-century families and communities'. The report has been viewed by the Council monitoring officer and section 151 officer.

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The Report

- 1 This Joint Carers Commissioning Strategy has been developed to ensure consistency with the main themes of the National Carers Strategy 'Carers at the heart of 21st-century families and communities', "A caring system on your side. A life of your Own"
- 2 Families, friends and neighbours are the major providers of community care and as unpaid carers they undertake a demanding job. With the demand for care rising, it is vital that we continue to recognise the invaluable contribution that unpaid carers make and look to get all agencies involved in supporting carers working together to improve the lives of Carers across Bath & North East Somerset.
- 3 It is estimated that unpaid Carers already provide up to 70% of care in the community and save the economy an estimated £87 billion a year. As people live longer and survive with complex health conditions, the prevalence of physical disability, illness, dementia, and so on, increases. This means that the number of people in the community needing care is going to increase. The Government estimates that there will be a 30% increase in the number of Carers by 2026, rising to 50% by 2041.
- 4 The 2001 Census asked a question about whether people provided unpaid care for a family member or friend and according to the results of this Census, there were, at that time, 16,225 unpaid Carers in Bath & North East Somerset, 75% of whom were providing between 1-19 hours of care, 9% of whom provided 20-49 hours per week and 16% of whom provided more than 50 hours' care per week.
- 5 Many Carers are of working age and many combine caring with paid employment.
- 6 Carers are more likely than the general population to suffer from health problems, and it is estimated that nearly one in four Carers themselves have health problems or disabilities.
- 7 Carers represent a largely 'hidden' workforce, and only a very small proportion of the number who identified themselves in the Census (which is itself likely to be an underestimate) are currently in touch with statutory services or commissioned services funded through the Carers Support Grant. In the last financial year 1468 carers assessments were carried out.
- 8 Carers are not a static population and nationally there are reported to be about 2 million people who take on new caring responsibilities every year.
- 9 3,282 carers took part in a survey carried out by Carers UK, both on line and by post, between the 18th February and 7th April 2010. Carers UK reported that Carers consistently highlighted that what they need to have a life of their own is:

- Access to relevant and practical information, to help them with their caring role.
- The opportunity to take a break when they need it.
- Support at times of crisis.
- Financial support.

10 Carers are often left isolated and lonely, missing out on opportunities that the rest of the population take for granted. Carers UK report that 80% of carers have been forced to give up leisure activities or from going out socially since becoming a carer.

Financial Context

11 Over the last three years the Local Authority has received a Carers Grant from Central Government in order to provide support to carers. For 2008/9 the amount received was £648,000, in 2009/10 it was £693,437 and for this financial year, 2010/11 it was 740,000.

12 20% of the Carers Grant received is transferred to Children's Services in order to support their commissioning of services to support young carers.

13 80% of the Carers Grant is currently used to part-fund a number of services for Carers commissioned from the third sector. These commissioned services are described in detail within the draft Strategy. This expenditure accounts for approximately 48% of the cost of commissioning these services. The balance of the cost of commissioning these services comes from mainstream social services funding and from what was previously known as voluntary sector grant funding, now known as Community Funding. Table below shows current committed expenditure against the Carers Grant Funding for Carers services and Table 2 the total investment by the Council in commissioning these services.

Table 1.

2010/2011 BUDGET ALLOCATION	740,000
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ADULT SHARE @ 80%	592,000
CHILDREN'S SERVICES @ 20%	148,000
AGE CONCERN DAY SERVICE NE SOMERSET	£26,314
ALZHEIMERS SOCIETY HOME BASED SERVICE	£61,353
ALZHEIMERS DAY SERVICE	£88,034
CARE NETWORK CARERS INFORMATION & SUPPORT	£44,339
CHEW VALLEY MONDAY CLUB	£898
COMBE DOWN HOLIDAY TRUST	£35,200
CROSSROADS ADULTS SERVICE	£74,629
RETHINK CARERS	£37,711
SPA DAY SERVICE	£5,000
SPA HOME BASED SERVICE	£38,600
CARE NETWORK CARERS INVOLVEMENT & CONSULTATION SERVICE	£19,483
CARE FORUM SHORT BREAKS DATABASE & CARER SERVICE PROVIDER FORUM	£9,200
BRIDGEMEAD RESPITE CARE BED AT £600 PER WEEK	£25,800
TOTAL	466,561
BREAK & NON BREAK SERVICES MONIES ALLOCATED TO TEAM TO SUPPORT COMMISSIONING OF RESPITE/BREAKS FOR CARERS AND NON-BREAK SERVICES	£75,439
DOMICILIARY CARE EMERGENCY RESPITE SERVICE WITH CARE SOUTH , WHICH IS COMMISSIONED TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY SUPPORT TO CARERS	£50,000
TOTAL SPEND 2010/11	592,000

Table 2

TOTAL COST OF SERVICES	
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COMMISSIONED FROM THE THIRD SECTOR WHICH RECEIVE CARERS GRANT FUNDING	
AGE CONCERN DAY SERVICE NE SOMERSET	£116,707
ALZHEIMERS SOCIETY HOME BASED SERVICE	£68,707
ALZHEIMERS DAY SERVICE	£204,036
CARE NETWORK CARERS INFORMATION & SUPPORT	£135,841
CHEW VALLEY MONDAY CLUB	£898
COMBE DOWN HOLIDAY TRUST	£35,200
CROSSROADS ADULTS SERVICE	£147,688
RETHINK CARERS	£48,297
SPA DAY SERVICE	£84,521
SPA HOME BASED SERVICE	£39,722
CARE NETWORK CARERS INVOLVEMENT & CONSULTATION SERVICE	£19,483
CARE FORUM SHORT BREAKS DATABASE & CARER SERVICE PROVIDER FORUM	£9,200
BRIDGEMEAD RESPITE CARE BED AT £600 PER WEEK	£25,800
TOTAL	936,100

- 14 Services provided by the Local Authority which support Carers, but which consist primarily of care for the cared-for person (e.g. respite), are deemed to be chargeable services in line with the *Fairer Contributions* guidance, whereas services for Carers only such as Information and Advice Services and 'non breaks' services, are not.
- 15 The Carers Grant is not a ring fenced grant and forms part of the Area Based Grant received by Local Authorities. This means that expenditure on support to Carers will need to be balanced against a range of competing social care priorities in the current economic climate whilst recognising the enormous contribution carers make to the cost of health and social care services.
- 16 In view of the fact that the Carers Grant is not guaranteed and in order to ensure sustainability, third sector organisations are being actively encouraged to seek funding

from a range of other sources in order to prevent reliance on the Carers Grant and social care funding as a single source of funding.

- 17 Since the integration of health and social care there has been much closer joint working on developing carers' support and NHS Bath & North East Somerset has committed to a recurrent investment of £250,000 towards the development of services for carers. Expenditure against this PCT allocated budget for 2009/10 and 2010/2010 can be seen in Tables 3 and Table 4 below.

Table 3

2009/2010	BUDGET
	PCT Recurring £250,000
CARER DEVELOPMENT WORKER SERVICE -THE CARE NETWORK	
1st Year Cost	£106,044
RESPITE CARE BED BRIDGEMENT - 1 YEAR AT £600 PER WEEK	£31,200
MAPPING & GAPPING WORK TO INFORM CARERS STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT	£8,750
MATCH FUNDING FOR CARERS BREAKS PROJECT	£25,000
CARE NETWORK CARERS INVOLVEMENT AND CONSULTATION SERVICE	£10,885
SPA DAY SERVICES	£26,307
CROSS ROADS COMMISSIONED RESPITE CARE	£36,000
TOTAL SPEND 2009/10	£244,186

Table 4

2010/2011	BUDGET
	PCT Recurring £250,000
CARER DEVELOPMENT WORKER SERVICE -THE CARE NETWORK	
2nd Year Cost	£105,522
MATCH FUNDING FOR CARERS BREAKS PROJECT	£25,000
CARE NETWORK CARERS INVOLVEMENT AND CONSULTATION SERVICE	£10,885
SPA DAY SERVICES	£26,307
CROSS ROADS COMMISSIONED APPROX RESPITE CARE EXPENDITURE	£36,000
TOTAL COMMITTED EXPENDITURE TO DATE	£203,714

- 18 Support to Carers is a uniquely cross cutting agenda; both generic (i.e. part of the overall agenda in a service supporting a particular client group) and specific (part of the Carers agenda). Carers receive support both directly and indirectly from services which are commissioned either as specific carers services or as services provided to the cared for person e.g. Stroke Clubs, Domiciliary Care Service, Residential Services, Continuing Health Care commissioned services.
- 19 Carers are entitled by law to a Carers Assessment if they care for someone for 'a substantial amount of time on a regular basis' and may now also access a Personal Budget in their own right. Carers' personal budgets are currently secured through mainstream social care funding. Approximately 200 carers have received a personal budget to date.
- 20 In 2008, Central Government announced that by 2011 it expects all Local Authorities to be providing social care services to adults, including Carers, via Personal Budgets, which will offer greater choice and control to individuals. This Strategy seeks to address delivery of this agenda
- 21 The draft Joint Carers Commissioning Strategy is a key document in determining and setting out the commissioning intentions for future investment in carers services.

- 22 The draft Joint Carers Commissioning Strategy does not seek to prescribe how Carers needs should be addressed rather to set out a framework for action from which to influence and build upon current support and service delivery to Carers.
- 23 A number of priority areas have been identified for 2010 - 2014. These are:
- More and Better Carer Assessments
 - Increased Personalisation through strong commissioning
 - The creation of a clearly identifiable and accessible Carers core service
 - Increasing the number and flexibility of short breaks
 - Emergency response and contingency planning
 - Better involvement of carers in the planning and development of services
 - Support for working carers
 - Training for carers to support them in their caring role

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Background papers	Draft Joint Carers Commissioning Strategy

If you would like this document in a different format, please contact the author