

Cllr Simon Allen, Cabinet Member for WellBeing Key Issues Briefing Note

Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel – May 2012

1. PUBLIC ISSUES

Carers Week 18th – 24th June

To mark Carers Week, raise awareness of the challenges facing the estimated 16,000 carers in Bath and North East Somerset and to promote some of the support and services available to carers, the Carers Centre, which is jointly funded by the Council and Primary Care Trust, has organised a week of events. The full programme can be accessed on the Carers Centre website at www.banescarerscentre.org.uk but the following gives a flavour of what is planned:

Monday 18th - Bath Peer Support Group

A peer support group for carers to help each other

10.45am to 12.15pm

Somer Community Room, Kingsmead Court, Kingsmead North, Bath BA1 1XB

Tuesday 19th - Two's Company

12.30pm to 3.00pm

Come along together for a scrumptious cream tea.

Saltford Hall, Wedmore Road, Saltford, BS31 3BY

Wednesday 20th - Carers' Forum

Have your voice heard on Sirona Care and Health's Services, developing carers' services for 18-30's and working carers and setting up a social enterprise for Give Us a Break.

Workshops 10-12.30pm or 6-8.30pm

Food 12.30pm to 2pm or 5-6pm

Health checks and fitness session 2-5pm

St Luke's Centre, Wellsway, Bath BA2 4SJ

Thursday 21st - Golden Oldies

With all the classic songs from the 50s, 60s and 70s, enjoy an unmissable hour of fun-filled singing, dancing and socialising for Goldies everywhere.

Somer Community Centre, Twerton, Bath BA1 2DJ

2.30pm to 3.30pm

Friday 22nd - Carers for Each Other

Trip to Weston Super Mare for carers with learning disabilities

10.00am-3.00pm

Saturday 23rd - Carers' Week Family Day

Come on your own or bring your whole family to enjoy a variety of activities including computer tuition, cookery workshops, fitness sessions, health checks, therapies and more for ages 1 to 101.

2.00pm-6.00pm
Keynsham Baptist Church , High Street Keynsham BS31 1DS

Sunday 24th - Pub Quiz

7.30pm – 10.00pm

Come and test your general knowledge and gain peer support at the same time. Prizes to be won.

Salamander 3 John Street, Bath BA1 2JL

2. PERFORMANCE

There are no key performance issues to highlight.

3. SERVICE DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Autism Service

Funding has been identified for two social work posts to fulfil community care responsibilities for adults with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC). This service enhancement has been commissioned from Sirona Care & Health and will be managed within the Sirona Complex Health Needs team. The post holders will care-manage all adults with ASC across the spectrum. This key development recognises the need to ensure that the assessment and care management of adults with ASC is undertaken by staff who have a good understanding and awareness of the needs of people with ASC, and an ability to commission quality services from skilled providers to meet the individual's needs. It is intended that the service will have a particular focus on supporting people to live independently in their own homes and on supporting people into employment.

Intensive Community Detoxification

The first three clients have successfully completed an Intensive Community Detoxification programme at a specialist supported living scheme run by DHI in Bath. The service, commissioned by Supporting People and Communities is delivered in partnership with DHI and the Specialist Drug and Alcohol Service, (SDAS) and was set up 6 months ago when the old Stall Street Dry House project closed. As well as the detox unit, the supported living scheme provides a further 10 'Dry house Units' (3 more than Stall Street), and another 6 continue to be delivered in an established supported living scheme also run by DHI. By remodelling and integrating the supported houses fully into treatment provision, we aim to offer a sufficiently robust structured package of support to those wishing to become drug and alcohol free. More people will be given an opportunity to detoxify and experience rehabilitation and we expect this to be of particular value to offenders returning to the community homeless, and other homeless people who wish to become abstinent. A full review of the service will be carried out this Autumn when it will have been up and running for 12 months.

Housing Renewal Policy (Home Health and Safety Policy)

This revised policy sets out the criteria for accessing a number of schemes which promote independent living for vulnerable households in B&NES in the community by

providing advice and assistance, including financial assistance, for adaptations, repairs and improvements. The policy also covers a scheme to encourage the owners of empty properties to bring those properties back into use. The policy has been reviewed a year after approval by Cabinet and revisions include the expansion of eligibility criteria for home improvement loans to include low income families with dependent children under 16 years of age.

The policy has 5 areas main areas:

- **Adaptations for disabled people** – to improve the housing conditions of eligible disabled people by providing Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) to purchase adaptations that assist independent living.
- **Home safety repairs and improvements** - advice and financial support for vulnerable households in the form of loans or grants to remedy and alleviate serious health and safety hazards in their homes. It operates alongside the Housing Services Enforcement policy on the improvement of rented homes which fall below acceptable health and safety standards.
- **Home energy efficiency improvements** - advice and financial support to help vulnerable and low income households insulate their homes or make them more energy efficient. These improvements will make it more affordable for vulnerable people to stay warm.
- **Community alarm grants** - grants for community alarms that makes them safer in their homes.
- **Empty Home assistance** – to improve the availability of housing in the area by assisting owners of empty homes to bring their properties back into use by giving advice and financial assistance in the form of loans or grants.