

ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL
2 JUNE 2009

UPDATE ON “CARING FOR CARERS” REPORT
(Director of Social Care & Learning)

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update of actions which have followed the Executive’s endorsement of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel’s report “Caring for Carers”.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members of the Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel are asked to note and comment on the progress to date.**

3 PROGRESS TO DATE

- 3.1 This section will highlight the progress achieved to date and further action planned.

- 3.2 The Council investigate a pilot scheme using the ‘Look In’ to run an advice and information service for carers and the possibility of offering on-site respite care for short periods.**

This recommendation is included in the Carers Strategy which was launched on 27 March 2009 at the Carers Conference. Included in the action plan, is a section specifically around planning services, where this action falls. Progress will be monitored by the Carers Issues Strategy Group.

Project group chaired by Team Manager, Community Support and Wellbeing will work with key staff by September 2009 to pilot this service from The Look In.

- 3.3 A ‘flyer’ leaflet providing information and contact details relating to services for carers will be included in the ‘Town and County’ on a regular basis to access hard to reach carers.**

The Carers Information Pack was relaunched in November 2008. Contact details of where information can be found and accessed are included in Town and Country. Advertising space has been purchased within the Bracknell Community Development guide which will be delivered to all homes in Bracknell Forest signposting carers to where they can receive support and advice.

Additionally, there is a specific information slot on Community TV aimed at supporting and signposting carers.

3.4 Staff in Adult Social Care will be asked to work in partnership with the Berkshire East PCT and general practitioners to implement an effective system of drawing to the attention of carers up to date information relating to services for carers (as is planned in the Carers Strategy Action Plan).

The Carers Information and Advice Worker works in partnership with Adult Social Care and EBPCT to raise awareness of carers with GPs. The Carers' Joint Initiative Working Group has a Practice Manager who attends to feedback to GPs.

There is a PCT initiative to ensure that all GP surgeries have a dedicated Carers notice board. To date, four surgeries have developed a dedicated information board. It is planned that this will be rolled out to all surgeries.

Carers Information and Advice Worker invited GP Practice Managers and a GP to attend a network meeting in January 2009 where they presented to and listened to carers about their issues.

Actions for the future include:

- Ensuring that Carers Information Packs on display at surgeries and to monitor GP surgeries to ensure information is on display.
- Consult with carers at carer's lunches to ascertain visiting GP experience.

3.5 Staff in Adult Social Care will be requested to work with health centres and hospitals to ensure that they provide appropriate information to carers.

The action in relation to Health Centres is covered by the above.

The second phase of this will focus on hospitals. Work has commenced with the Berkshire East PCT Project Manager for Bracknell, assigned to carers to agree a programme of information into hospitals.

Berkshire East PCT have a representative on Carers Issue Strategy Group and will be working with BFVA to ensure Phase two is actioned. Additionally, views will be sought at the Carers Lunches to ascertain experiences.

3.6 The Chief Officer: Adult Social Care will be asked to support partners in the delivery of the Carers Strategy Action Plan.

The Carers Strategy was launched at the Carers Conference on 27 March 2009. The Action Plan has been incorporated into this.

The Carers Issue Strategy Group will continue to monitor progress until complete.

3.7 Performance against Local Area Agreement targets for National Indicator 135 (Carers receiving needs assessment or review and a specific carer's service, or advice and information) will be reported regularly to the Social Care and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

The indicator measures the number of carers whose needs were assessed or reviewed by the Council in a year who received a specific carer's service, or advice and information in the same year as a percentage of people receiving a community based service in the year. The target for 2008/09 was 16%. The Council's

performance was 16.4%. This means 571 carers were assessed or reviewed as a proportion of the 3478 people supported by Adult Social Care.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 There has been significant progress in relation to the report and recommendations reflected in this report. The Carers Strategy is attached as Annexe 1 for information.

Background Papers

None

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