

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
8 JUNE 2010**

**CARERS DEVELOPMENTS 2009/2010
Director of Adult Social Care and Health**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets out the progress achieved in respect of Carers services in Bracknell Forest Council during 2009/2010 and includes an update on the Scrutiny working group entitled Caring for Carers.

2 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 That the Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel note the developments and outcomes achieved during the last year.**

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Carers Issue Strategy group has continued to monitor the actions within the Carers Strategy action plan and the recommendations contained in the Scrutiny Working Group report 'Caring for Carers'. The updated action plans are attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.2 Themed carers lunches have taken place which have included the following topics
- Personalisation
 - Carers Grant
 - Health and Social Care developments
 - Listening to carers
 - Consultation on information and advice
 - Carers assessments
- 3.3 In partnership with the Princess Royal Trust the successful launch of the emergency respite scheme has seen 125 carers join the scheme all reporting that this service offers peace of mind. On average 10-12 carers per week seek emergency respite from the scheme every month
- 3.4 BFC, Age Concern and The Alzheimer's Association have held weekly surgeries at The Look In.
- 3.5 BFVA have focused on identifying hard to reach carers including BME groups all agencies are reporting an increase in carers registering on data bases.
- 3.6 A Family and Friends group has been created at New Hope supporting people who misuse substances.
- 3.7 The Carers Forum has been reviewed and will be incorporated into the cares lunch events to ensure a higher volume of carers can participate

- 3.8 In partnership with the Stroke Association a new family and carers support worker was recruited to support people who have had a stroke and their families this has proven to be successful and a popular resource.
- 3.9 Carers gave positive testimony to Glen Mason and Ian Bainbridge (Department of Health) at an event in Bracknell in March 2010.

4 FUTURE PLANS

- 4.1 The Carers Issue Strategy Group will review and refresh the Carers Strategy.
- 4.2 The Carers information pack will be reviewed and carers will be consulted on the document and opportunity will be given to comment on the content and identify gaps.
- 4.3 Work will continue to reach the “hard to reach” carers.
- 4.4 Work will continue with GP surgeries ensuring all surgeries agree to information notice boards on display in surgeries.
- 4.5 Work is in progress with GP’s asking to share information on carers and ensure that GP’s provide carers with the documentation which will enable carers to make application for individual carers assessments
- 4.5 The Council are working with the voluntary sector and NHS Berkshire East to create a common carer’s assessment document based on information that carers have said is important to them. This will ensure that wherever carers seek support they will only have to complete one such assessment and with the carers permission the information will be shared across agencies.
- 4.6 The Council will continue to consult with carers and listen to their issues and concerns.

Background Papers

‘Carers Strategy ‘Action Plan
‘Caring for Carers’ recommendations

Contact for further information

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