

TO: EXECUTIVE
31ST MARCH 2015

JOINT COMMISSIONING STRATEGY FOR PEOPLE IN AN UNPAID CARING ROLE
Director of Adult Social Care, Health and Housing

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To enable the development of services within Bracknell Forest to support people, caring for adults and young people approaching adulthood, in an unpaid caring role.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the Joint Commissioning Strategy for People in an Unpaid Caring Role 2015 -2020 is approved.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To ensure that the strategic direction for supporting people in an unpaid caring role continues to reflect:-
- the needs and wishes of the people concerned
 - national strategic direction
 - recognised best practice.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 To continue with the strategic direction identified in the original commissioning strategy. However, this would not take account of people's current needs and aspirations or follow recent government legislation and best practice.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 The current Joint (health and social care) Commissioning Strategy for Carers expires in April 2015. A new strategy needs to be developed for the next 5 years.
- 5.2 The Care Act Fact Sheet on Carers 2014 states a carer is "someone who helps another person, usually a relative or friend, in their day to day life. This is not the same as someone who provides care professionally, or through a voluntary organisation."
- 5.3 Not all people who are providing care identify themselves as carers and therefore terms such as "people in a caring role," and "people who care" have been used within the text of the strategy.
- 5.4 Bracknell Forest Council supported approximately 900 carers in 2013/14 (RAP returns. In the 2011 census 9,601 people in Bracknell Forest identified themselves as

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carers. Not all carers want or need support but it is important that support is available for those who do and who are eligible.

5.5 Significant developments were made in service over the period of the last strategy, (2011 -2014) to enable people in a caring role to be supported. Developments include:-

- Working in partnership with Bracknell & Ascot CCG to improve joint commissioning of services and a more integrated approach to supporting people
- Working with partners to develop, maintain and improve the community support available to people who care
- Carers Forum has been re-established. This is a forum of people in a caring role who support in the development of services for carers
- Local Implementation group for carers issues includes young carers representatives
- Focus with Public Health on developing Prevention and Early Intervention services
- Berkshire Carers Service offer a range of local support for carers
- There is a range of volunteer services supporting people who care and improving their quality of life e.g. Involve Befriending Scheme, Support with Confidence
- Carers Information pack has been updated and is now available in paper format and on website
- Open Learning Centre involvement in offering training and development programmes to improve health and wellbeing and build self-esteem and confidence
- Bracknell Forest Voluntary car service has been awarded a grant to support carers
- Carers have been provided with local current welfare advice services
- E-learning module on Assistive Technology has been completed and is on internal and external website and promoted at Carers Lunch.

5.6 The new strategy has been informed by:

- The views of people who are in a caring role and people who support them
- Relevant legislation such as the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the Care Act 2014
- National guidance such as the National Carers Action plan 2014
- Research and Best Practice
- An analysis of the needs of the local population, current service delivery and what is likely to change or needs to change in the future.

5.7 The development of this strategy has been led and supported by Carers Issues Strategy Group. They have ensured that stakeholders including people in an unpaid caring role have been involved in the consultation to find out what needs to be developed. This report outlines the how the consultation was undertaken to inform the Joint Commissioning Strategy for Carers and the emerging themes.

5.8 The consultation highlighted the following key areas for development:

- Equal access to support as to the person they care for
- Access to timely, up-to-date information and advice.

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- Information on right to assessment and access to timely assessment and support planning.
- Implementation of Personal Budgets and Direct Payments
- Better access to social and emotional support
- Flexibility in how and when respite can be used, including being able to book respite in advance.
- More flexibility in timing, length and type of health consultations and better access to Continuing Health Care funding.
- People in a caring role to be more involved in the planning of support for the person they care for
- People in a caring role to have better understanding of their rights as a carer
- Easier access to transport, especially transport for health appointments
- Training to support carers in their caring role
- Better continuity and quality of care for the person they care for and better communication between teams.

5.9 The Care Act will significantly change the way councils assess and support people in a caring role to enable them to have equal access to care and support to the person they care for. It is anticipated that more people in a caring role will be assessed and eligible for support because of the following changes:

- the threshold from assessing people who are requiring “substantial and critical” support has lowered to carers who “appear” to need support and
- the eligibility criteria for support .

This Act and the Children and Families Act 2014 identify the need to take a whole family approach when providing care and support. They also put duties on Councils to work in an integrated way to support young Carers (age 0-25) and children in need.

5.10 A number of priorities have been identified in the strategy reflecting the issues identified during the consultation and new duties contained in the Care Act 2014 and the Children and Families Act 2014. The priority areas are as follows:

- To have equal access to support as the person they care for
- To have better understanding of their rights as a carer
- To be involved more in planning of support for the person they care for where appropriate
- To have better continuity and quality of care for the person they care for and better communication between teams
- To have access to timely, up-to-date information and advice
- To improve access to Carers Assessments and support plans and ensure that carers are involved in their assessment and planning of support
- To support young carers approaching adulthood
- To support parent carers when their child is approaching adulthood
- To improve support for carers to access to education and training enabling them to assist the person they care for and have a fulfilled life.
- To support carers in finding and staying in employment
- To implement of Personal Budgets and Direct Payments for carers
- To improve access to and flexibility of respite services
- To inform carers about the benefits of assistive technology
- To further assess and identify how the barriers to accessing support/services, the community and transport can be reduced

- To inform carers how the safeguarding process can protect people from harm
- To improve access for carers to social and emotional support
- To support carers to maintain their health.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The relevant legal matters are contained in the body of the report.

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 The Council allocates its financial resources through the budget process in the context of its medium term financial plan. Currently the medium term financial plan forecasts that the Council will need to make significant savings over the next few years. Over this period the Council will have to develop increased efficiency in service delivery whilst still responding to demographic changes, new legislation and the need to modernise services. This will require the reallocation of some of the Council's limited resources to key priorities.

- 6.3 In order to deliver these service changes the Council publishes a range of strategies and policies relating to many of its key services. A strategy or policy does not represent a financial commitment but, rather, sets the strategic direction of travel, subject to the level of resources that become available. These strategies also form the basis of the annual service plan which ensures that the development of the Council's services is consistent with its medium term objectives within the resource envelope that is agreed. The development of these strategies is, therefore, an important part of the Council's arrangements for helping it allocate its limited resources to maximum effect.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.4 An Equalities Impact Assessment was completed as attached at Appendix Two.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.5 A detailed action plan will be developed for the delivery of commissioning intentions which supports services for people in a caring role. Performance and progress will be measured against each priority.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 The following groups were consulted:
- Adults who have a caring role for other adults.
 - Parents who are supporting a young person approaching adulthood.
 - Young people in a caring role approaching adulthood.
 - People who support people who are in a caring role.
 - People who are interested in supporting people in a caring role.

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 Public consultation ran from 24th July – 23rd October was initiated with a Conference on 24th July 2014. The Carers Issues Strategy Group was involved in the planning and running of the conference and consultation. Consultation methods used include an online version of the consultation and through attending existing groups. Issues raised by the Carers Forum were also taken into account.
- 7.3 Information from the National Carers Survey which was sent out to current carers in October 2014 was also taken into consideration when writing the Strategy.

Representations Received

- 7.4 Number of representations received are as follows:
- 120: Carers Conference
 - 38: Questionnaires
 - 12*: Carers Forum
 - 7: Mencap Coffee Morning
 - 60*: Carers Lunch
- * approximate numbers.
- 7.5 Representations received have been included within the development of the strategy.

Background Papers

Appendix 1: Joint Commissioning Strategy for People in an Unpaid Caring Role
Appendix 2: Equalities Impact Assessment

Contact for further information

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