
Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

2nd March 2011

Report of the Assistant Director Governance & ICT

Cover Report – Carer’s Review

Summary

1. This report presents Members with the final report (Appendix 1 refers) arising from the Carer’s Scrutiny Review.
2. The Task Group recognised certain key objectives and the following remit was agreed:

Aim

3. To promote the valuable work done by carers and to improve the way City of York Council and its key partners identify carers and ensure they have access to information and the support available.

Key Objectives

- i. To raise awareness of carers
- ii. To improve access to information for carers

Background

4. Between November 2010 and February 2011 a small cross-party Task Group gathered information for the carer’s review which led to the following recommendations being made:

Key Objective (i)

- a. That health commissioners and providers ensure that there is greater consistency around how carers are identified and once identified their needs addressed. This would need to include:
 - Training in carer awareness for all health professionals and allied staff
 - That the hospital looks at extending the innovative approaches they have been piloting and embedding these into standard practices for all admissions and discharges

- That a written report be provided to the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee on a six monthly basis in relation to quality indicators that are being monitored in respect of carers.
- b. That the Multi-Agency Carer's Strategy Group identifies where it would be helpful to provide public information about what it means to be a carer and how to access support to enable carers to identify themselves earlier
- Where places are identified carer awareness training should be made available for key workers
- c. That City of York Council reviews its Equalities Framework to ensure that carers become an integral part of all equality and inclusion work and this to include
- Inviting a carer representative to become a member of the Equalities Advisory Group

Key Objective (ii)

- d. That health commissioners ensure that all care pathways provide guidance on the information and advice carers will need regarding specific medical conditions as well as sign-posting them to support and advice. This will need to address what the impact might be on:
- The carer
 - The family as a whole
 - The cared for person
- e. That Adult Social Care Services develop a clear pathway, which provides an integrated approach to assessment for the whole family whilst recognising the individual needs within the family and the impact of caring on the carer.
- f. To continue to promote carer awareness an annual update on the Carers Strategy for York be presented to the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee and thereafter to the Executive Member for Health & Adult Social Services
5. In addition to the above recommendations and if monies were to become available the Task Group hoped that consideration could be given to funding respite care in order that carers could take breaks (paragraph 51 of Appendix 1 refers)

Consultation

6. This is detailed at paragraph 3 of the final report at Appendix 1 to this report.

Options

7. Members have the following options:

Option 1 Approve and endorse the final report and the recommendations arising from the review prior to it being presented to the Executive

Option 2 Amend the final report and/or recommendations arising from the review prior to it being presented to the Executive

Analysis

8. A full analysis is set out in the body of the final report at Appendix 1 to this report

Corporate Priorities

9. This report and the review being undertaken are directly linked to the 'Healthy City' theme of the Corporate Strategy 2009/2012.

Implications

10. Implications are set out within paragraphs 53-55 of Appendix 1.

Risk Management

11. The risks associated with the recommendations arising from the review are at paragraph 56 and 57 of Appendix 1.

Recommendations

12. Members are asked to consider whether they would like to make any amendments to the final report. They are then asked to approve and endorse the final report and the recommendations arising from the review prior to it being presented to the Executive in April 2011.

Reason: To complete this scrutiny review

Contact Details

Author:

Tracy Wallis
Scrutiny Officer
Scrutiny Services
Tel: 01904 551714

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Andrew Docherty
Assistant Director Governance & ICT
Tel: 01904 551004

Report Approved

Date 23.02.2011

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

Appendix 1 Final Report of the Carers Scrutiny Review