

**Decision Session - Cabinet Member for  
Health, Housing and Adult Social Services**

**22 November 2011**

Report of the Carers Strategy Manager, Adults Children & Education on behalf of the Carers Strategy Group

**Annual Update on the Carers Strategy**

**Summary**

1. The Health Overview Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) completed a Carer's Review in 2010/11. The Committee recommended that the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing & Adult Social Services should receive an annual report updating the Carers Strategy and that the same report should be submitted to the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
2. This report's purpose is to provide the annual update for the Cabinet Member.

**Background**

3. In November 2010 the HOSC appointed a Task Group of three members. The task group worked with Adult Children & Education (ACE) officers: Head of Commissioning and Partnerships and Carers Strategy Manager. Informal and formal meetings were held, as well as a public event to gather evidence.
4. The Review agreed the following aim and objectives:

**Aim:** 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

5. The review was completed in April 2011.
6. The summary of the Final Report of HOSC's Carers Review is attached as Annex 1.
7. The Carers Strategy Group is a partnership of statutory and voluntary agencies and carer representatives which oversees the implementation of York Strategy for Carers. The Strategy has been refreshed in 2011, incorporating the recommendations of the Carer's Review. The Strategy (Annex 2) was agreed by ACE DMT on 6 October and includes a summary of progress 2009–2011 and an action plan for 2011–15.

## **Consultation**

8. The HOSC Carer's Review included a consultation event in January 2011 and in total 34 people contributed their views.
9. York Strategy for Carers 2011–15 was developed by the multi-agency partnership and includes a summary of information from a number of consultations with carers during 2010–11 (see Annex 3).
10. These included a meeting held with carers in August 2010 in order to respond to the refresh of the National Strategy. In addition, in September 2010 York LINKs held a Public Information and Awareness Event on Carers Rights, and in January 2011 York Carers Centre received 183 responses to its user survey.
11. Some of the key messages from carers are as follows:
  - “protect the carers and the cared for is protected”
  - the importance of supporting the carer's physical health and mental wellbeing
  - the importance of short breaks
  - given that people do not always identify themselves as a carer it is important that key professionals, especially GPs are able to identify carers
  - 95% of carers consulted by York Carers Centre felt that leaflets in the Carers Information Pack were useful and relevant
  - young carers need specialist support in schools and further education

## **Carers Strategy Update**

12. York Strategy for Carers 2011-2015 includes a summary of progress (p21–27) which is attached as Annex 4. A significant number of achievements have been made in working to support carers in York. There is also a range of work that still needs to be done which is summarised in the Action Plan 2011-2015 (p28-33) attached as Annex 5.
13. Some of the achievements and outstanding work are listed below.

### Achievements

- The Carers Information Pack is annually updated and additional fact sheets developed as needed.
- York Carers Centre is established as an independent organisation and focal point for information provision and signposting.
- York Carers Centre led the development of two e-learning carer awareness training tools which were launched in June 2011.
- York now has three active and well established carer led forums: York Carers Forum (adult carers); CANDI (parent carers); Young Carers Revolution (young carers).
- City of York Council's Library Service worked actively with York Carers Centre during Carers Week 2011 to distribute information and raise carer awareness.
- The Flexible Carer Support Scheme continued to provide an increased number of direct payments to support and sustain carers in their caring role, with 680 carers being supported in 2010/11.
- York Carers Centre's Employment Education and Training service provides a specialist service supporting carers with training, work and related issues.
- NHS North Yorkshire and York included carers issues in the principles for the Admissions and Discharge Policies for all Acute Trusts to follow.
- York Carers Centre has contacted all GPs surgeries in York distributing information and organised 13 awareness raising sessions.

- York Carers Centre's Young Carers Service continues to work with York schools to raise awareness and increase the school based support available for young carers.
- Young Carers Revolution (the young carers forum) has produced a DVD which is recognised as an excellent awareness raising tool and has been promoted locally and nationally.

#### What still needs to be done:

- Effectively provide information in public places which is accessible to people who may not recognise themselves as carers.
- Reduce the length of the waiting list for Carers Assessments of Need.
- Roll out information about carers employment rights to employees and employers in York.
- Engage with the new NHS commissioning bodies as they develop, to promote carers issues.
- Set up a Young Carers task group.
- Implement the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) as the assessment tool for young carers.

### **Analysis**

14. As this report is for information, no further analysis or options are needed.

### **Corporate Objectives**

15. Carers are York residents, or are supporting York residents and as such are affected by all the five key priorities in The Council Plan 2011–15. However, the actions and projects under 'protect vulnerable people' are of particular significance in providing services and support to sustain carers in their caring role.

### **Implications**

#### **Financial**

16. All of the actions will be accommodated within existing budgets.

## **Equalities**

18. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed for York Strategy for Carers 2011-15.
19. The actions arising are:
  - Continue to improve accessibility of information for carers and key workers and improve identification of 'hidden' carers.
  - Ensure information about carers ethnicity is appropriately recorded by City of York Council, York Carers Centre and all Carers Strategy partner organisations to inform future service planning.
  - Use existing contact mechanisms with BME, multi-faith and multi-cultural groups to identify the numbers of carers from BME communities and take appropriate action.
  - Monitor the progress City of York Council makes in implementing the 'Carer Friendly Employer Chartermark' Action Plan.

## **Other**

20. There are no implications relating to Human Resources, Legal, Crime and Disorder, Information Technology or Property arising from this report.

## **Risk Management**

21. As the report is for information, no risks arise directly from this report. In a broader sense, however, failure to recognise the importance of carers could lead to the Council failing to comply with its statutory duties under the Equalities legislation, and to additional costs falling on social care budgets.

## Recommendations

22. The Cabinet Member is invited to receive the report, note its contents, and comment as appropriate.

Reason: To comply with the recommendations of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to highlight the importance of the work of Carers in accordance with the council's Corporate Strategy.

## Contact Details

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Report  
Approved



Date 7 November 2011

Pete Dwyer  
Director of Adults, Children and Education

Report  
Approved



Date 7 November 2011

### Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

### Background Papers:

#### Annexes:

Annex 1: Carer's Scrutiny Review Final Report March 2011

Annex 2: York Strategy for Carers 2011-15

Annex 3: What Carers in York have told us

Annex 4: Summary of Progress July 2011

Annex 5: York Carers Strategy Action Plan 2011–2015