

Health and Wellbeing Board

10th July 2013

The Voice and Influence of Carers

Background

1. Carers make a huge contribution to the health and wellbeing of our residents. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy outlines a clear commitment to understanding the needs of carers and ensuring that they have a voice within the new health and wellbeing structure.
2. The following is a cross-cutting action within York's Health and Wellbeing Strategy:

“We will ensure that the voice of carers and young carers is heard and listened to by the Health and Wellbeing Board. We want to encourage a better understanding of carers' needs and how organisations across the city can support them, so they are able to continue their vital contribution to improving health and wellbeing.”

3. It is important that carers are involved in a meaningful way within the Health and Wellbeing Board and the family of health and wellbeing partnerships. This does not necessarily mean having a carer on every partnership board, but having someone who can represent their agenda.

An Introduction to a presentation by Carers

4. In order to progress our commitment to carers and young carers, the Health and Wellbeing Board will be given a presentation by carers and young carers. The presentation will cover the following:
 - Why carers are important: who they are and what they do.
 - What carers do and what they have to offer: how they contribute to the 'health and wellbeing' of the citizens of York and the strengths and benefits of supporting them.

- Information and case studies about carers: including health and employment issues.
- What carers would like from the Health and Wellbeing Board and some questions for Board members.

Recommendations for the Health and Wellbeing Board

5. The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to:

- Endorse and sign up to the Carers Charter –
The Carers Charter is attached as Annex A
- Agree that the voice of carers should be represented on the Health and Wellbeing Board and the sub groups that sit below it, for example, by having Carers Champions, rather than additional Board members.
- Collectively agree how they will make sure that supporting carers, a ‘cross cutting theme’, will be embedded across the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Reason: To ensure that carers, who make such a valuable contribution in the city, have meaningful voice and influence within the local health and wellbeing system.

Council Plan

6. The proposals in this paper have particular relevance to the ‘Building Strong Communities’ and ‘Protecting Vulnerable People’ strands of the council plan.

Implications

Financial

7. No financial implications

Human Resources (HR)

8. No HR implications

Equalities

9. Supporting carers is a cross-cutting theme throughout the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Ensuring they are supported and they have voice and influence will improve their access to information and health and wellbeing services.

However, it should also have wider benefits in tackling some of the issues they face and the health inequalities they experience. Addressing health inequalities is an overarching aim of the Health and Wellbeing Board and a key priority within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Legal

10. No legal implications

Crime and Disorder

11. No crime and disorder implications

Information Technology (IT)

12. No IT implications

Property

13. No Property implications

Other

14. No other implications

Risk Management

15. There are no significant risks associated with the recommendations in this paper.

Contact Details

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**Report
Approved**

Date 2 July 2013

Wards Affected:

All

**For further information please contact the author of the report
Annexes**

Annex A – The Carers Charter