
Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

24th January 2011

Carer's Review – Interim Report

Summary

1. This report updates the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the work that has recently been undertaken by the Carer's Task Group in relation to the Carer's Review.

Background

2. In coming to a decision to review this topic, the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Health OSC) appointed a Task Group to undertake the work. The Task Group recognised certain key objectives and the following remit was agreed and subsequently approved by the Health OSC:

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

Consultation

4. To date consultation has taken place between the Task Group and relevant Council Officers.
5. A public event was held on 7th January 2011 and was attended by approximately 20 people, both carers and care workers.
6. Questionnaires have also been sent to those that could not attend the event and to date approximately 30 have been returned, although there is still time left until the deadline for receipt.

All Key Objectives

Information Gathered

7. To date the Task Group have met four times and details of these meetings is set out in the paragraphs below:

11th November 2010

8. This was an informal meeting of the Task Group at which they scoped and timetabled the review as well as deciding upon the remit. These were subsequently approved at a meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee on 21st December 2010

14th December 2010

9. This was a formal meeting of the Task Group where they considered papers prepared by the Carers' Strategy Manager at City of York Council. All of these papers are available online for viewing. The reports provided information on good practice examples regarding carer identification, carer awareness raising and information provision in other areas. They also explored the current practice in York, in particular the York strategy for carers document as well as providing information on key partners.
10. The Task Group discussed the information received to date and noted that the York Strategy for Carers 2009-2011 had been extended until 2012 as the National Carers Strategy had only recently been refreshed giving little time, as of yet, to analyse the content. However officers confirmed that further information on the key messages for the refreshed York Carers' Strategy would be made available to the Task Group early in the New Year.
11. Further discussions also took place around:
 - The forthcoming public event
 - The need to work with General Practitioners (GPs) and key professionals to identify carers at an early stage
 - Whether money allocated to the Primary Care Trust to be used for short term breaks for carers had been ring fenced
 - There was a need to build on what already existed and worked well and within budget
 - Frequently more support was given to patients than to carers whose health often suffered as a consequence
 - The need to identify useful points of contact within the Council and then examine whether any improvements can be made to assist in identifying carers

17th December 2010

12. This meeting was informal and was used to design 2 questionnaires to gather information for the review. The first questionnaire was directed at carers and the second at care workers. Copies of the questionnaire are attached at **Annexes A and B** to this report and are available online only.

13. The main aim was to gather information on personal experiences of being identified as a carer, whether carers were treated with respect, who else in the City needs to be made aware of carers to ensure they get the help they need, what kind of information carers need and how and where carers have obtained the information they need.
14. The questionnaires were available for completion at the public event held on 7th January 2011 and also sent out prior to this for those that could not attend.

7th January 2011

15. The Task Group held a public event between 2pm and 6.30pm at the Monkbar Hotel. This took the form of a drop in session and approximately 20 people attended to speak to the Task Group about their experiences of being a carer and/or a care worker.

Options

16. This report is for information but Members of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee may wish to comment on work undertaken to date.

Analysis

17. All information gathered at the public event along with the returned questionnaires is due to be analysed by the Task Group at an informal meeting on 17th January 2011.
18. The Task Group are then due to meet formally on 2nd February to discuss all information received to date with a view to formulating the recommendations arising from the review. The final report of the Task Group is due to be presented to the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 2nd March 2011.

Corporate Strategy 2009/2012

19. This topic is linked to the 'Healthy City' aspect of the Corporate Strategy 2009/2012.

Implications

20. **Financial** – There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations within this report however implications may arise as the review progresses and these will be addressed accordingly. There is a small budget of £500 allocated to any scrutiny review undertaken. This review has to date used some of these funds to hire a room for a public event and to provide some refreshments.
21. **Human Resources** – There are no known Human Resources implications associated with the recommendations within this report however, implications may arise as the review progresses.

22. **Legal** – There are no known legal implications associated with the recommendations within this report however, implications may arise as the review progresses.
23. There are no other implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

Risk Management

24. There are currently no risks associated with this review and none associated with the recommendations within this report.

Recommendations

25. Members are asked to note the contents of this report and make the Task Group aware of any comments that they might have on work undertaken to date.

Reason: To progress this review

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Report Approved

Date 11.01.2011

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

- Report to Health OSC 21st December 2010 – Remit, scope and timetable for the review
- Report to Carer's Review Task Group 14th December 2010

Annexes (online only)

Annex A Carer questionnaire
Annex B Care worker questionnaire