

York Strategy for Carers

2009 - 2011

YORK STRATEGY FOR CARERS 2009- 2011

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Executive Summary

Introduction

This Carers Strategy is a statement of how services and support for carers in York will be developed until 2011. In June 2008 the government published a new national strategy for carers - Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities “A caring system on your side. A life of your own.” The National Strategy gives a framework for a ten-year programme and a vision for what the government wants to see in place for carers by 2018:

..carers will be recognised and valued as being fundamental to strong families and stable communities. Support will be tailored to meet the individuals’ needs enabling carers to maintain a balance between their caring responsibilities and a life outside caring, whilst enabling the person they support to be a full and equal citizen.

York Carers Strategy incorporates the five outcomes for carers outlined in the National Strategy and listed below, and takes account of the short-term commitments announced by the government for service development nationally. York’s Strategy builds on the work undertaken locally over a number of years, especially the Action Plan for 2006 – 2008.

Why we need a strategy

There is an ageing population, people are living longer and many will develop long term conditions. Many people balance paid work, childcare and unpaid caring. Families may well live at a distance from their relatives. People who have care needs increasingly want to maintain maximum choice and control over their lives. Many people will find themselves taking on a caring role at some point in their lives.

The National Strategy is linked to wider health and social care reforms which recognise the important role that carers play in society. Health and social care services are aiming to promote individual choice and independence, with a shift towards prevention, and early intervention.

The National Strategy outlines five outcomes to work towards:

- Carers will be respected as expert care partners and will have access to the integrated and personalised services they need to support them in their caring role;
- Carers will be able to have a life of their own alongside their caring role;
- Carers will be supported so that they are not forced into financial hardship by their caring role;

- Carers will be supported to stay mentally and physically well and treated with dignity;
- Children and young people will be protected from inappropriate caring and have the support they need to learn, develop, and thrive, to enjoy positive childhoods and to achieve against all the *Every Child Matters* outcomes.

Carers in York

Carers are of every age and from all groups in society. The experience of caring varies from person to person. Some people never identify themselves as a carer, but see themselves as looking after a relative as part and parcel of that relationship. The figures used to estimate the current numbers of carers are all based on the 2001 census.

There are about 17,000 carers in York. This is over 9% of the population. Carers are not a static population and nationally about 2 million people take on new caring responsibilities every year. Many local carers may not have access to the information and advice they need. There were 342 young carers aged 8 – 17 years recorded in York in the 2001 census. There are approximately 1350 carers registered with York Carers Centre and in 2006/07 1180 carers were identified as providing ‘regular and substantial’ care in York. There will be a rise in the numbers of older people in York in the coming years, meaning more people, including older people, will become carers. Research shows that carers often experience more ill-health than other members of the population.

More needs to be done in York to identify and assess carers at the right time including work to identify ‘hidden’ carers, and those who may need specialist approaches such as carers from BME communities, and carers of people with substance misuse problems.

Local planning and priorities

The Local Area Agreement is a plan which sets out priorities which are agreed between central government and a Local Strategic Partnership. York’s partnership is called the ‘Without Walls’ partnership. There are ‘indicators’ that measure a local authorities performance and a reduced number were introduced in 2008. York highlights 35 key target areas for performance and one of these is the indicator for carers. The Joint Strategic Need Assessment 2008 is produced by NYYPCT and CYC and summarises planning to develop services to improve health and wellbeing in York. The recommendation about carers is :

‘Provide information and services that support carers in the city. Monitor CYC supported carers through the

Local Area Agreement’.

There are a number of other strategies and service plans for children and adults in York which detail planning intentions over the coming years for services related to a range of people in need, including older people, people with mental health problems and people with learning disabilities. The important role of carers and the need to support unpaid carers are included in many of these plans.

How are we doing?

This is a summary of work undertaken under the York Carers Strategy Action Plan 2006 – 2008.

Achievements

There have been many examples of partnership working; for example the production of the Primary Care Resource Pack for GPs surgeries and the Self Health Checklist by the Carers Information and Identification Group and Carers Self Health Steering Group who undertake projects in consultation with carers. Carers Week events in June 2008 were also jointly organised by a range of statutory and voluntary sector workers.

The new Carers Emergency Card scheme was launched in May 2008 as a partnership between City of York Council’s Warden Call service and York Carers Centre.

Carer involvement has developed in the City with two new carer led forums being set up during 2008.

The Flexible Carer Support scheme, which provides direct payments to support carers, has become increasingly popular and feedback from carers shows that it does help sustain carers in their role.

Following a review of services in the City, work is underway to re-provision York Carers Centre. The review identified that carers and others wanted a local, accessible and independent carers centre that could attract external sources of funding, in order to expand services to carers. Selby and York Carers Centre had been hosted by the Primary Care Trust for many years, and during 2008 a decision was made by North Yorkshire County Council to provide a separate service for carers in Selby. In York progress has been made through work undertaken by York CVS, to set up an independent organisation to run the new York Carers Centre. A new service specification has been developed for the core service to be commissioned from the Centre by CYC and NYYPCT.

The Carers Strategy Manager post is now permanent and full-time, and is supported by a dedicated full-time administrator. Three new City of York Council Carers Support Worker posts have been permanently established, to improve access to carers assessments.

Areas for improvement

Whilst there is much information available for carers, it is not widely available and accessible. The new York Carers Centre will have a key role in improving information provision for carers.

More needs to be done to ensure carers who visit GP's surgeries and primary care services are identified and signposted to appropriate sources of support.

There is a need for greater and more consistent awareness about the needs of carers amongst all professionals, and more integrated working.

Work is needed within City of York Council to ensure carers assessments are carried out and access to the Flexible Carer Support scheme maintained by keeping waiting times to a minimum.

There needs to be more work inter-agency to meet the needs of Young Carers in York, including Young Adult Carers aged 18 – 24 years, and work to improve joint working between adults and children's services.

Key priorities

The following are the key priorities for 2009 – 11:

INFORMATION – carers will have easy access to accurate information and advice;

CARER INVOLVEMENT – carers will be involved in planning and monitoring the services they receive;

INTEGRATED SERVICES – closer joint working, culture change and awareness raising for professionals;

ACCESS TO SERVICES AND SUPPORT – particularly leisure and transport;

BREAKS – carers should have access to a range of flexible breaks;

FINANCIAL SUPPORT – carers should have access to accurate welfare benefits advice;

EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT – ensure carers in paid employment are supported;

PRIMARY CARE - ensure carer identification and support increases;

YOUNG CARERS – will be protected from inappropriate caring and have the support they need.

YOUNG ADULT CARERS - Work is required to continue and extend the service provided by York Carers Centre to young adult carers.

Implementing the Strategy

The Carers Strategy Group has been in place in York for some years. It is a multi-agency group including carer members alongside professionals from City of York Council, the Primary Care Trust and voluntary sector organisations. The group agreed an Action Plan for 2006 – 2008 to ensure everybody worked to provide good services and support to unpaid carers in the City of York. The Action Plan ended in March 2008, and this Strategy aims to review progress, and renew the Action Plan. It will set priorities for work to improve services and support to carers in York in light of the new National Strategy for carers published by HM Government in June 2008. With increasing pressures on Public Sector spending it is important that organisations work together to get the best for carers out of the available resources.

All proposals for investment will need to be based on good evidence that the development will make a positive difference to peoples quality of life and be cost effective, because proposals will need to be considered alongside other competing priorities for health and social care investment.

Chapter 1 Introduction

In June 2008 the government published a new national strategy for carers - Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities “A caring system on your side. A life of your own.” The National Strategy gives a framework for a ten-year programme and a vision for what the government wants to see in place for carers by 2018:

..carers will be recognised and valued as being fundamental to strong families and stable communities. Support will be tailored to meet the individuals’ needs enabling carers to maintain a balance between their caring responsibilities and a life outside caring, whilst enabling the person they support to be a full and equal citizen.

York Carers Strategy incorporates the five outcomes for carers outlined in the National Strategy (see Chapter 2) and takes account of the short-term commitments announced by the government for service development nationally. York’s Strategy builds on the work undertaken locally over a number of years, especially the Action Plan for 2006 – 2008 which is reviewed in Chapter 5.

The purpose of this Carers Strategy is:

- to make clear the priorities for support and services to carers in York;
- to ensure all carers and agencies are aware of the priorities;
- to enable all agencies involved in community and health care to effectively promote the health and well-being of carers.

Part of the process of strategy renewal has been to review the membership and structure of the Carers Strategy Group. The membership is to be renewed and a Core Commissioning Group to be formed with members from CYC Adults Services, CYC Children’s Services and NYYPCT. This group will agree commissioning priorities, and budget plans. Membership of the Carers Strategy Group will continue to be multi-disciplinary, and will include carer members. The group’s key function is to implement the Carers Strategy, and to monitor and report on progress. The Group will ensure work is carried out with appropriate leadership in place, and that all work streams and sub-groups or task groups work to involve carers.

Funding to support carers is received by every local authority in the form of the Carers Grant which includes funds to provide the Carers Emergency Card scheme which was launched in York in May 2008. The grant for 2009/10 is £669,000. The Government announced additional monies to provide breaks for carers, as part of the new National Strategy. This money will be received by PCT’s during 2009/11, and comprises a sum of £150 million across the country as a whole.

Chapter 2 Why we need a strategy

Social Care Reform

Society is changing, people are living for longer, and many older people develop long-term clinical conditions. Many people also have rising aspirations and want to maintain independence and control and remain living at home. This will often result in a greater contribution from unpaid carers.

Putting People First (*ref.1.*) is a cross government agreement to promote the development of a personalised adult social care system. This means services giving consideration to individual needs, with a greater focus on prevention in order to promote independence and wellbeing. The personalisation of social care services aims to ensure that local agencies work together, with a strategic shift towards early intervention and preventative approaches. The aim is that people have increased choice and control about the way their support is provided, and that early interventions will promote independence rather than involvement happening only at the point of crisis.

Safeguarding adults is also a key area of work. The Department of Health launched a consultation on how to improve safeguarding policy, the protection of vulnerable adults, and address abuse in all its forms in the care system in October 2008 (*ref.2.*). The 'No Secrets' guidance requiring local authorities, the police and the NHS to work together to protect adults is already in place. The Government now wants to make sure it keeps up with changes in the social care system, with the new emphasis on choice and control and changing forms of abuse.

There is a need to ensure carers are aware of changing practice and legislation that affects them, including the Mental Capacity Act (*ref.3.*) This concerns people who lack mental capacity and those who take decisions on their behalf, and it is therefore important that carers are aware and able to take appropriate action concerning the person they care for.

NHS reforms

Lord Darzi was asked by the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Health to lead the NHS Next Stage Review in July 2007. His interim report in October 2008 (*ref.4.*) sets out a vision for a world class NHS that is fair, personal, effective and safe. The Review has been led locally by clinicians in each NHS region. Seventy-four local clinical working groups, made up of some 2000 clinicians, have been looking at the clinical evidence and engaging with their local communities. They have developed improved models of care for their regions to ensure that the NHS is up to date with the latest clinical developments and is able to meet changing needs and expectations.

In May and June 2008, England's Strategic Health Authorities published a series of reports describing their locally-developed visions for improving health and healthcare over the next decade (*ref.5.*).

Services for children

Every Child Matters: Change for Children (*ref.6.*) is a new approach to the well-being of children and young people from birth to age 19. The Government's aim is for every child, whatever their background or their circumstances, to have the support they need to:

- Be healthy;
- Stay safe;
- Enjoy and achieve;
- Make a positive contribution;
- Achieve economic well-being.

This means that the organisations involved with providing services to children, from hospitals and schools, to police and voluntary groups, will be teaming up in new ways, sharing information and working together, to protect children and young people from harm and help them achieve what they want in life. Children and young people will have far more say about issues that affect them as individuals and collectively.

Every Disabled Child Matters is a national campaign by four leading organisations working with disabled children and their families: Contact a Family, Council for Disabled Children (CDC), Mencap, and the Special Educational Consortium (SEC). The campaign aims to challenge politicians and policy-makers to make good on the Government's commitment that every child matters, and ensure that disabled children matter as much as other children (*ref. 7.*).

The National Carers Strategy 2008

Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities

“A caring system on your side. A life of your own”.

HM Government, June 2008 (*ref.8.*)

The new national carers strategy is linked to the policy strands and programmes of reform set out above and recognises the increasingly important role that carers play in society, acknowledging that carers need more help and support than has been available in the past.

Since the first Carers Act in 1995, and the Carers Strategy 1999, these and subsequent pieces of legislation have established a number of rights and services for carers (see Appendix 1).

The new national strategy for carers, which replaces that of 1999, alongside the programme of social care and health reforms, recognises changes in society detailed in chapter 3.

Key messages from the National Carers Strategy

Vision and ten year programme of commitments.

The Strategy gives a framework for a ten-year programme and a vision for what the government wants to see in place for carers by 2018:

..carers will be recognised and valued as being fundamental to strong families and stable communities. Support will be tailored to meet the individuals' needs enabling carers to maintain a balance between their caring responsibilities and a life outside caring, whilst enabling the person they support to be a full and equal citizen.

New national proposal re-definition of carer.

The National Strategy proposed a new definition of 'carer' and the intention to carry out a review and impact assessment of the definition to see if it could be adopted across government. This new definition has not yet been adopted or agreed. It is as follows:

A carer spends a significant proportion of their life providing unpaid support to family or potentially friends. This could be caring for a relative, partner or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has a mental health or substance misuse problem.

Local definition of carer

York Carers Strategy Group currently works to the following definition of carer, and will continue to do so until any further information about the national definition is published:

A carer is someone who, unpaid, is looking after a relative, friend or neighbour, who is ill, disabled, frail or in need of emotional support. Carers can be under age 18, when they are referred to as 'Young Carers'.

Outcomes for carers by 2018

The strategy outlines key 'short-term' commitments for 2009-2011 and indications of longer term plans. These are laid out according to five outcomes:

1. Carers will be respected as expert care partners and will have access to the integrated and personalised services they need to support them in their caring role.

Short term commitments:

- National carers' information helpline and website;
- Funding to provide easy access to local information;
- Training programme for carers 'Caring with Confidence';
- Pilots to look at how the NHS can better support carers;
- Training and awareness raising for key professionals.

2. Carers will be able to have a life of their own alongside their caring role.

Short term commitments:

- Increased funding for breaks for carers (PCT's to receive first part of monies in April 2009);
- Pilots to assess quality and cost-effectiveness of breaks;
- Sharing best practice across councils.

3. Carers will be supported so that they are not forced into financial hardship by their caring role.

Short term commitments:

- Review flexible working practices;
- Awareness raising campaign for employers and carers about flexible working;
- A good practice guide for employers around supporting carers;
- Improving the support offered to carers by Jobcentre Plus;
- Ensuring skills training is provided in a flexible manner.

4. Carers will be supported to stay mentally and physically well and treated with dignity.

Short term commitments:

- Piloting annual health checks for carers;
- GP training pilots;
- Improving emotional support for carers.

5. Children and young people will be protected from inappropriate caring and have the support they need to learn, develop, and thrive, to enjoy positive childhoods and to achieve against all the *Every Child Matters* outcomes.

Short term commitments:

- More support for schools;
- Awareness raising on caring and the issues it raises across children's settings more generally;
- Training materials for health professionals;
- Preventing children from falling into inappropriate caring. Action to help build better, more preventative support;
- Action to ensure better joined-up support around the family;
- Training for staff in local services on whole family working.

“The strategy recognises that improving the support for the person being cared for is vital to improve the life of the carer”.

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Chapter 3 Carers in York

The National Strategy summarises the issues facing us in local areas, in enabling effective support to be made available to unpaid carers in the 21st century in the face of a changing society. People are living longer, and many aspire to maintain independence and control. Many people balance work, childcare and care of a relative or friend. Families members may live at a distance from relatives and struggle to maintain a healthy work-life balance. *(ref.1.)*

Research shows that at some point in our lives, caring for others is going to happen to most of us. Carers are not a homogenous group, and the experience of caring varies dependent on lots of factors. The circumstances of the person cared for and those of the carer can both affect the caring role. There are some carers who are more likely to be 'hidden' or 'hard to reach', for example carers caring for those with a drug or alcohol problem, carers who have a learning disability, or lesbian and gay carers. Some carers, for example those caring for people with dementia, may have the need for specialist help and information. There are a proportion of people who care for more than one family member, such as family carers who may be caring for a child or adult with a disability and an older relative.

Many people do not identify with the term 'carer'. The caring role is often something that becomes part and parcel of the relationship a carer has with the cared for person, as a friend, partner or relative.

Over 3 million people combine work and care, and carers are found across all sectors of society, and in all sections of the workforce. Combining work and caring is most likely to happen in people's 40s and 50s but can increasingly arise at any age, and working carers are often less well qualified than other employees *(ref.2.)*.

The proportion of people aged 65 and over is projected to increase from 16 per cent in 2006 to 22 per cent by 2031. As a result, demographic support ratios will fall. In 2006, there were 3.3 people of working age for every person of state pension age. This ratio is projected to fall to 2.9 by 2031, taking into account the future changes to state pension *(ref.3.)*. There will be an increase in the numbers of people living longer with complex conditions, and the numbers of people with dementia, which includes people with learning disabilities who can experience early onset dementia.

There are over 1.5 million people in the UK aged 60 years and over, providing unpaid care. The general household survey (1995) shows that one in eight adults provides informal care, and one in six households contain a carer. The peak age for caring is 45 – 64 years of age. A fifth of adults in this age group were providing unpaid care.

Information about the numbers and needs of carers locally is based on the 2001 census.

The 2001 census (*ref.4.*) results for York show:

	Total population	Provision of unpaid care: Total	Provision of unpaid care: 1-19 hours	Provision of unpaid care: 20-49 hours	Provision of unpaid care: 50+ hours
City of York	181,094	17,009 (9.4% of population)	12,478 (73% of carers)	1,520 (9% of carers)	3,011 (18% of carers)
All of England / Wales	52,041,916	5,217,805 (10.02% of population)	3,555,822 (68% of carers)	573,647 (11% of carers)	1,099,336 (21% of carers)

The census also records a figure of 342 young carers aged 8 – 17 years of age in York. Young adult carers aged 16 – 24 years make up 5.3% of that age group in the population (*ref.5.*)

York Carers Centre has 1,343 adult carers registered on its database and 56 young carers aged 8 - 18 years old are known to the service (July 2008). Within the City 1180 carers were identified who were providing substantial and regular care in 2006/07 (*ref.6.*). The Centre undertakes specific work with young adult carers aged 18 – 25 years, who can no longer access the Young Carers Service and need support targeted to their age group.

It is clear from these figures that there are many carers in York who may not have access to information, support and services. Carers are not a static population and it is estimated that 2 million people across the country take on caring responsibilities for the first time every year. We need to ensure we continue to work to identify carers who are new to the role.

There is a predicted rise of 31% in the population in York who will be aged over 65, in the fifteen years up to 2021 and a prediction of an additional 700 more people affected by dementia. More work is required to identify and assess carers at the right time and there is a need to increase and target resources to support carers, especially those caring for older people with dementia (*ref.7.*). Projections about unpaid carers estimate a rise in numbers from 3,600 unpaid carers aged over 65 in York in 2008, to 4,729 in 2025 (*ref.8.*).

The analysis of census information shows that carers who provide high levels of care for sick or disabled relatives and friends, unpaid, are more than twice as likely to suffer from poor health compared to people without caring responsibilities. In addition nearly 21% of carers providing over 50 hours of care say they are in poor health compared to nearly 11% of the non-carer population (*ref.9.*).

The implications are that work is required locally to:

- identify hidden carers;
- continue to work actively with young carers, and young adult carers;
- support carers to stay healthy;
- plan provision for those with specific needs e.g. carers from BME communities, and carers of people with alcohol and substance misuse problems (ref.10.);
- respond to the needs of an ageing population;
- support the increased numbers of carers of people with dementia;
- support carers in paid employment.

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Chapter 4 Local planning and priorities

Local Area Agreement

Local Area Agreements (LAA's) set out the priorities for a local area agreed between central government and the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). York's LSP is the 'Without Walls' partnership which involves the local authority, alongside public, private, voluntary and community sector representatives (*ref.1.*).

A local authority's performance is measured by 'indicators' and a new reduced set of indicators has been introduced in 2008. As part of this, each authority highlights a number of key indicators and targets. In York, the indicator concerning carers has been chosen as one of the 35 target areas. The indicator NP 135 records:

'The number of carers whose needs were assessed or reviewed by the council in a year who received a specific carer's service, or advice and information in the same year as a percentage of people receiving a community based service in the year.'

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment York 2008

This document is produced by NYYPCT and CYC as a short summary of the planning commissioning and development of services to improve health and wellbeing across the City of York area. The recommendation about carers is :

'Provide information and services that support carers throughout the city. Monitor CYC supported carers through the Local Area Agreement.' (*ref.2.*)

The National Carers Strategy states that £150 million is available nationally in 2009 – 11 for carers breaks and will be allocated to PCTs, who will be required to work with local partners and publish joint plans as part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. (*ref 3*)

Services for adults

There are a number of strategies and service plans in York concerning services for adults. This includes a long term commissioning strategy for older people, a newly developed strategy to develop services to support people with physical and/or sensory impairment, a joint commissioning strategy for people with mental health problems and a strategy for adults with learning disabilities. These are detailed in Appendix 2.

In line with the Putting People First agenda, work is under way to develop early intervention services, with a joint commissioning project set up regarding older people's services, between CYC's Housing and Adult Social Services

and NYYPCT. The Council is to develop the Self Directed Support model for all customer groups. Carers are recognised as being fundamental to both of these pieces of work and will be involved and consulted as the work progresses.

CYC and NYYPCT are committed to improving the integration of services within York and so are working to develop joint commissioning arrangements and to integrate service provision.

Safeguarding adults is a key area of work. Following the CSCI inspection of CYC's older people's services in June 2008, which identified the need to ensure good practice is achieved consistently, CYC has set up a new multi-agency safeguarding Adults Board for York (the former board also covered North Yorkshire) and established three additional posts to manage and carry out casework.

Work to plan the development of a Centre for Independent Living is underway in York, coordinated by York CVS. Carers will be involved in this development.

Long Term Conditions

There are 15.4 million people with a long term condition in England (*ref.4.*). This includes people with a range of chronic conditions such as diabetes and heart disease, and other neurological conditions such as multiple sclerosis and schizophrenia. Numbers are expected to rise due to an ageing population and certain lifestyle choices that people make. NHS and social care services need to be prepared and responsive to meet the challenges that this may pose. To support this, the Department of Health has developed a strategy for improving care for people with long term conditions, which will inform local planning to respond to the needs of people with long term conditions.

Voluntary organisations and community support

York Council for Voluntary Services (YCVS) offers support to voluntary and community organisations, and is an active partner in 'Without Walls', York's Local Strategic Partnership. YCVS also supports a number of Voluntary Sector Forums, bringing together groups concerning mental health, learning disability, and families, children, and young people. Carers and ex-carers are active members of the community groups and Forums. There are a wide range of voluntary groups in York. Some provide services for carers commissioned through the Carers Grant or other funding: York and District MIND provides a counselling service for carers of people with mental health problems; York Alzheimer's Society provides specialist courses for carers; Age Concern York provides a sitting service called In Safe Hands; and York Branch of Crossroads provides a sitting and support service to many local carers.

There are two carer led forums in the City. York Carers Forum is an umbrella group for all carers, and CANDI – Children and Inclusion is for parent carers. These groups are both involved in ensuring the voice of carers is heard in local planning processes that affect services and support to both carer and cared for adults and children in York. It is hoped that a Young Carers Forum can be established in the near future.

Services for Children

Both the government's Children's Plan and City of York's local Children and Young People's Plan (*ref.5.*) emphasise that "it is the aim to make this the best place in the world for our children and young people to grow up".

This aim is most pertinent for young carers who have a caring role with a parent or relative with additional support needs due to health difficulties or disability. Services in the City of York's children's trust arrangements adopt a whole family approach. This means that children's and adult services must have arrangements in place to ensure that no young person's life is unnecessarily restricted because they are providing significant care to an adult with an identifiable community care need.

The children's trust commissioning arrangements concentrate action on the early identification of and early intervention with children and families in need. This will be achieved by greater promotion of the existence and needs of young carers to professionals in wider children's services.

There will closer collaborative work between the York Carers Centre, Children's social care and Adult social care to ensure that all young carers are identified, assessed, supported and ultimately that they are not restricted unnecessarily from leading fulfilling lives as children and young people by their caring role.

Parent carers in families with disabled children tell services that their number one priority is regular and reliable short breaks from caring.

In January this year the Government announced the allocation of a total funding package worth £370m for 2009 -11 for short breaks. This comprises £280 million in revenue funding, along with £90 million in capital funding.

City of York and NHS North Yorkshire and York receives significant grants to enable a transformation in the provision of short breaks in the next two years.

The range of short breaks will be designed to respond to the changing phases and needs of family life, to ensure families feel included and to make a positive difference to their lives.

Summary

The important role of unpaid carers in supporting children and adults with health and social care needs is acknowledged in local planning documents and processes. Carers are currently active in planning forums, following the setting up of two new carer led forums in 2008. There is evidence that carer awareness is growing within health and social care settings. It is hoped that this work can continue, including increased corporate awareness raising within City of York Council, the impact of a more accessible Carers Centre, and planned improvements in the way basic information for carers and about carers is provided within the City.

City of York Council's refreshed corporate objectives have highlighted as priorities both the changing demographics of the city with the ageing population, and the importance of supporting unpaid carers to help friends, neighbours and family to retain independence and lifestyles of their choice.

References

1. Information on 'Without Walls' is available on the CYC website:
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2. York Joint Strategic Needs Assessment :
www.nyypct.nhs.uk/AboutUs/PublicBoardMeetings/2008Sep16/Item10Y1York%20JNSA.pdf
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Chapter 5 How are we doing?

The York Carers Strategy Group agreed an Action Plan for 2006 – 2008 to ensure everybody worked to provide good services and support to unpaid carers in the City of York. The Action Plan ended in March 2008, and is reviewed below.

Achievements

A key aspect of the work during the two year period 2006 - 2008 has been joint working at many levels, between social care, health, and voluntary sector organisations to achieve service developments, organise events, produce information, and plan the way forward for support and services for carers in York. The Primary Care Resource pack and the Self-Health Checklist were successfully produced by the Carers Information and Identification Group and the Carers Health Steering Group, as a result of joint working between health, social care, and voluntary sector organisations, alongside consultation with carers. The main event during Carers Week 2008 was jointly organised by a group from a range of health, social care, and voluntary sector organisations. The Carers Emergency Card Scheme pilot was successfully launched in May 2008 as a partnership between York Carers Centre and City of York Council.

The Young Carers Service at the Carers Centre has continued its successful work to support young carers aged 8 – 18 years, and provide support to young adult carers aged 18 – 25 years. An excellent presentation was made by the Service at the launch of the Primary Carer Resource Pack on Carers Rights Day in December 2007, which received much positive comment.

A forum for workers across agencies who specialise or are interested in work with carers first met in 2008.

Carer involvement has developed with two new carers forums being constituted and launched in the City during 2008.

The Flexible Carer Support Scheme has provided a direct payment and flexible breaks to carers with 405 successful applications approved by the scheme during the period April 2006 – September 2008. Three part-time permanent Carer Support Worker posts have been established in CYC's three locality Assessment and Purchasing Teams.

The Review of Services for Carers in York involved wide consultation with carers, and plans are currently underway to re-provision the Carers Centre in York.

The following information summarises the progress made to implement the 2006 – 2008 Action Plan:

INFORMATION

- The production of the Primary Care Resource pack for GP surgeries launched in December 2007.
- Awareness raising and training sessions.

IDENTIFICATION

- The new York Carers Centre database is in the planning stage, and should be up and running in 2009.
- Joint planning of Carers Week events 2008.

ASSESSING CARERS NEEDS

- Permanent Carers Support Worker posts in the three CYC adult services teams, and a specialist care manager in the Learning Disability services.

A VOICE

- Consultation with carers (245 completed questionnaires, and 43 took part in meetings) was a key part of the review of carers services in York in 2007.
- A newly constituted York Carers Forum was established by carers in June 2008.
- A parent carers forum CANDI (Children and Inclusion) was launched in June 2008.
- Carers contributed directly to the CSCI Inspection of older people's services at CYC in June 2008, and presented information to the Annual Review Meeting with CSCI in June 2008.

CARERS SUPPORT AND SERVICES

- * The Flexible Carer Support scheme has successfully provided direct payments and flexible breaks, to adult carers of adults, over the past two years.
- Carers Emergency Card scheme launched in May 2008 as a partnership between York Carers Centre and City of York Council's Warden Call service.
- A range of commissioned services in the City: York and District MIND's Carers Counselling Service; Age Concern's In Safe Hands paid worker scheme; York Alzheimers Society, Caring and Coping courses.
- * The need to promote short-term home based respite support (through maximising the impact of the carers grant). Funding of the carers grant was reviewed and an allocation made to include overnight support at home.
- * Promotion of carers health and well-being: the Self Health checklist for carers was produced and launched in June 2008.

TRAINING AND SKILLS TO CARE AND LIFELONG LEARNING

- The Carers Employment and Lifelong Learning (CELL) scheme was established in September 2005 and has been accessed by 157 carers up until April 2008.

*** Identified as a priority**

FINANCIAL SECURITY AND EMPLOYMENT

- Key workers informed about CELL.

EQUITY OF ACCESS

- A draft protocol re young carers and assessment processes has been drawn up.

GOOD QUALITY MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

- Social electronic record system – Frameworki in place in CYC

STRATEGIC SUPPORT

- Permanent full-time Carers Strategy Manager and Carers Strategy Administrator full-time posts established.

Areas for improvement

Consultation with carers and professionals clearly shows that whilst a wide variety of information for carers is available, there is not consistent provision of accurate and accessible information for carers at the time it is needed. The new York Carers Centre will have a key role in improving information provision for carers, including proactive work to identify carers, and ensure its work is actively publicised in the local media. A greater awareness of the needs of carers is needed amongst professionals, and culture change is required to recognise carers as expert care partners, and ensure more integrated working between and within organisations. Continued work to support carer involvement and recognition is required.

A number of pieces of work to improve information for carers have not been completed, or have had limited impact. Work to produce an easy read Carers Assessment of Need leaflet failed due to key staff leaving posts and a lack of coordination and clear communication. Systems to distribute and update leaflets have been absent or ineffective, and work to update the Carers Centre database and establish a website have been delayed due to the service being reorganised.

It is a recognised fact that carers will often be in touch with Primary Care services, especially GP surgeries. There has been some work in York to encourage carer identification within Primary Care e.g. the Carers Centre informs GP practices of carers registered on the Centre's database and a new Primary Care Resource pack was produced and distributed to GP surgeries in

December 2007. However more work is required to increase carer awareness and carer identification in health settings and particularly within Primary Care. This also links to work required to ensure carers are supported to maintain their own health and well-being.

There has been some improvement in ensuring Carers Assessments of Need are undertaken more efficiently by City of York Council, however further work is needed to resolve problems in ensuring good quality management information is available. In addition, work is required to establish an integrated approach to carer identification, assessment and provision of services and support between health, social care and voluntary sector organisations. The continued development and promotion of the Carers Emergency Card will enable more joint working, and provide the opportunity for access to Telecare to be promoted alongside the Card.

Breaks for carers, both planned and unplanned are important and greatly valued. A review of the type of breaks, accessibility and availability is needed to ensure they are personalised and flexible to meet the carers needs.

The Carers Strategy in York includes children as well as adults, and continued work is required to build and consolidate good working relationships between Children's and Adult services to ensure the needs of parent carers and young carers are met.

There are areas of the Action Plan where progress has been limited:

- Work to identify BME carers and plan inclusion in provision;
- Developing leaflets in accessible formats;
- The provision of training for carers;
- Implementing protocols for joint working between Children's and Adults services re carers assessments.

The following information summarises outstanding work from the 2006 – 2008 Action Plan:

INFORMATION

- Provision of easily accessible information and signposting for carers.

IDENTIFICATION

- Identification of hidden carers particularly in Primary Care settings.
- Setting up Young Carers task group.
- Provide multi-agency carer awareness training.

ASSESSING CARERS NEEDS

- Increase numbers of carers being offered and receiving assessments, review and revise methods of assessment in light of

personalisation agenda.

- Ensure system for collection of management information for performance indicator about carers (NP135) is efficient and regularly reviewed and updated.

A VOICE

- Ensure carer involvement continues to be supported and resourced.

CARERS SUPPORT AND SERVICES

- Continue to review availability of counselling to carers.
- Breaks for carers: increase the availability and flexibility of breaks for carers.

TRAINING AND SKILLS TO CARE AND LIFELONG LEARNING

- Provision of training to carers and 'Expert Carer Programme' now renamed 'Caring with Confidence', and if/how this national project will be implemented in York.

FINANCIAL SECURITY AND EMPLOYMENT

- Review CYC and NYYPCT work-life balance policies.

EQUITY OF ACCESS

- Putting draft protocol re young carers and assessment into practice.
- Development of Carers Assessment of Need leaflet in accessible format.
- * Actions to ensure inclusion of carers from BME communities
- Inclusion of parent carers: a plan for a joint strategic approach with Children's Services needs to be established.

GOOD QUALITY MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

- Revise processes for collection of data required for performance indicator NP135.

*** Identified as a priority**

Chapter 6 Key Priorities and Targets for 2009 – 2011

Following a review of services for carers in York and Selby in summer 2007, requested by CYC and NYYPCT commissioners, a report was presented, which highlighted a number of priority areas for service development. The review included consultation with carers through a questionnaire sent to all carers in York who were known to the Carers Centre and a number of group meetings were held. Evidence from the review demonstrated the key finding that carers in York wanted easy access to coordinated services and support for themselves and the cared for person.

The main outcome from the review was the agreement that the Carers Centre would no longer be hosted by the Primary Care Trust, and an independent local organisation would be set up to run the Centre. This organisation is currently being established. A new service specification for the York Carers Centre comprises a requirement for provision of an accessible local centre, offering advice and information, and includes work to develop a more integrated approach between service providers re local support for carers.

The review highlighted key areas that need development including the following. The provision of information and signposting for carers needs to be improved; there needs to be increased carer identification in GPs surgeries and services need to be better coordinated. There was also a clear need identified to develop the support available to young carers in York and enable joint working to become a reality.

This local review echoed the kinds of priorities that carers generally identify according to national research, and in combination with the priorities identified by the National Strategy, York Carers Strategy Group recommend the following key areas of work during 2009 – 2011:

- **INFORMATION – carers will have easy access to accurate information and advice.**

Improve information and signposting for carers in York to ensure it is accurate, widely available, and provided in accessible formats. It was recommended that York Carers Centre be the focal point for this service. Work to ensure this provision is put in place is one of the key priorities and underpins all work to support carers in York.

- **CARER INVOLVEMENT – carers will be involved in planning and monitoring the services they receive.**

Recognition of carers as expert care partners is a key outcome in the National Strategy. Work to encourage a culture change in the professional world is important in achieving this target. The Strategy Group is committed to the involvement of carers in the group, and in the work of implementing the Strategy, alongside ensuring local carers'

groups and forums are supported, and training for carers is made available. Work to involve young carers and set up a Young Carers Forum is required.

- **INTEGRATED SERVICES – closer joint working, culture change and awareness raising for professionals.**

Services and information need to be provided in a coordinated way within and across agencies. Closer partnerships between health, social care and the third sector are needed. Awareness raising is required to increase the level of carer awareness amongst services and the wider community. This is a key area of work for the Strategy.

- **ACCESS TO SERVICES AND SUPPORT – easier access to leisure and other services**

Housing, transport and leisure services need to support carers' needs. Proposals include setting up a discount scheme for carers, to enable them to access leisure and other services in York.

- **BREAKS – carers should have access to a range of flexible breaks.**

A review of breaks provision will take place to inform the most effective use of resources in the future.

- **FINANCIAL SUPPORT – carers should have access to accurate welfare benefits advice.**

Easily accessible and accurate welfare benefits advice needs to be widely available for the diverse range of carers in York.

- **EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT – ensure carers in paid employment are supported.**

Employment support will be focused on the requirements of carers who are in paid employment.

- **PRIMARY CARE - ensure carer identification and support increases.**

A key priority is the need to ensure work is undertaken to improve carers identification and signposting in primary care settings, including GPs surgeries.

- **YOUNG CARERS – will be protected from inappropriate caring and have the support they need**

This is another key priority area, with the commitment to enable a Young Carers Forum to be set up and to support schools in York to support young carers.

- **YOUNG ADULT CARERS**

Work is required to continue and extend the service provided by York Carers Centre to young adult carers.

Chapter 7 Implementation

The Role of the Carers Strategy

The Carers Strategy Group has been in place in York for some years. It is a multi-agency group including carer members alongside professionals from City of York Council, the Primary Care Trust and voluntary sector organisations. The group agreed an Action Plan for 2006 – 2008 to ensure everybody worked to provide good services and support to unpaid carers in the City of York. The Action Plan ended in March 2008.

This new Strategy sets priorities for work to improve services and support to carers in York in light of the new National Strategy for carers published by HM Government in June 2008. However, the implementation of the strategy will need to be looked at in the light of increasing pressures and a potential decrease in public sector spending.

The Core Commissioning group and the Carers Strategy Group will work to ensure this local strategy is implemented, and make decisions about priority areas, and resource allocation. Member organisations represented on the Carers Strategy Group should agree to the implementation of the Strategy within their organisation, or group.

Action Plans

Detailed action plans will be developed according to the key priorities and targets listed on pages 30 – 34. It is not assumed that action will be achieved on every outcome listed, and priorities for action will be agreed by the Strategy Group. Outcomes are based on the National Strategy and we will be working towards them during 2009 – 2011, not guaranteeing that they can be achieved by that date.

Agencies and organisations in York

All agencies and organisations in York are invited to circulate the Strategy to their members, staff, and boards. Managers should raise the profile and ensure all staff are aware of the needs of carers, and ensure carer awareness raising takes place.

<u>National Strategic Outcome One</u> Carers will be respected as expert care partners and will have access to the integrated and personalised services they need to support them in their caring role.		
Action Plan Number	Outcome	Local priority
1A	Information: Carers will have easy access to accurate information and advice	• Provision of easily accessible information and signposting
1B	Carer identification: Carers will be recognised and valued for their unique role in supporting the cared for person	• Increase identification of carers in Primary Care (see 4C)
1C	Young Adult Carers: Carers will have easy access to accurate information and advice	• Establishment of support for young adult carers aged 18 years + by York Carers Centre
1D	Integrated services: Services and information will be provided in a coordinated way across and within agencies	• Closer joint working and partnerships between health, social care and the third sector • Awareness raising for professionals
1E	Personalised services: Carers will have access to a range of flexible services that meet their individual needs	• Carer Assessment of Need • Common Assessment Framework • Personal budgets
1F	Carer involvement: Carers will be involved in planning and monitoring the services they receive	• Training for carers – Living for Learning • Carer involvement

<u>National Strategic Outcome Two</u> Carers will be able to have a life of their own alongside their caring role		
Action Plan Number	Outcome	Local priority
2A	Break provision: Carers should have access to a range of flexible breaks	• Joint plans with NYYPCT re new money for breaks • Review current breaks provision • Personal budgets to enable carers to take breaks
2B	Emergency Card Scheme: Carers should be better equipped to deal with a crisis and have peace of mind	• Emergency Card Scheme
2C	Technology: Carers should have access to a range of services and support	• Telecare
2D	Housing, Leisure and Transport: Carers should have access to a range of services and support	• Discount card scheme

<u>National Strategic Outcome Three</u> Carers will be financially supported so that they are not forced into financial hardship by their caring role		
Action Plan Number	Outcome	Local priority
3A	Income: Carers should have access to benefits advice	• Welfare benefits advice
3B	Employment: Carers should have access to employment support and vocational training	• Ensure carers in employment are supported • Encourage carer aware employment practice • Make local links with new 'care partnership managers' at Jobcentre Plus

<u>National Strategic Outcome Four</u>		
Carers will be supported to stay mentally and physically well and treated with dignity		
Action Plan Number	Outcome	Local priority
4A	Prevention: Carers should have access to appropriate medical advice, and support about their own health needs	• Self-health checklist distribution and evaluation
4B	NHS: Carers needs should be addressed in hospital admission and discharge procedures	
4C	Primary Care and GPs: Primary care professionals should identify carers ensuring appropriate support, signposting and referrals	• Update GP resource pack • Develop work to improve carer identification and signposting in primary care settings
4D	Emotional Support: Carers should have support to maintain their well being and reduce stress	

National Strategic Outcome Five

Children and young people will be protected from inappropriate caring and have the support they need to learn, develop, and thrive, to enjoy positive childhoods and to achieve against all the *Every Child Matters* outcomes.

(Every Child Matters outcomes: be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution, achieve economic well-being)

Action Plan Number	Outcome	Local priority
5A	Universal services: Children will have the support they need to learn, develop and thrive	Support schools in York to support young carers
5B	Targeted support for young carers: Young carers will be able to make a positive contribution and have their views respected	Set up a Young Carers Forum
5C	Whole family support: Children and young people will be protected from inappropriate caring	

Glossary

BME	Black and minority ethnic community.
CANDI	Children and Inclusion: local forum for parents of children with disabilities. (see 'Useful Contacts')
CELL	Carers Employment and Life Long Learning project run by Future Prospects in York. (see 'Useful Contacts')
CQC	Care Quality Commission: the independent regulator of health and social care in England.
CSCI	Commission for Social Care Inspection was the social care regulator prior to CQC.
CSG	Carers Strategy Group: multi-agency group of people working to implement local action plans.
CYC	City of York Council. (see 'Useful Contacts')
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: NYYPCT and CYC joint summary of the planning commissioning and development of services to improve health and wellbeing.
LAA	Local Area Agreement: the agreement between York's Local Strategic Partnership and Central Government.
LIAG	Local Implementation Advisory Group: advisory group in Mental Health services with user and carer members.
LIT	Local Implementation Team: a multi-disciplinary group in Mental Health services who feed into the planning process and feedback advice from the LIAG to the Primary Care Trust.
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership: a local group, in York called 'Without Walls' who prepare a Community Strategy.
NHS	National Health Service.
NSF	National Service Framework: a policy set by the National Health Service in the United Kingdom to define standards of care for major medical issues.
NYYC	North Yorkshire County Council.
NYYPCT	North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust. <i>Please note that this organisation is now re-named NHS – North Yorkshire and York (Though the old logo is still in place)</i>

PALS	Patient Advice and Liaison Services. (see 'Useful Contacts')
PCT	Primary Care Trust.
PRTC	Princess Royal Trust for Carers. (see 'Useful Contacts')
SHA	Strategic Health Authority
Telecare	Home safety and personal security system that enables people to live independently through a 24 hour BT telephone link and state of the art technology
YCC	York Carers Centre: local service provider specialising in provision of support to adult and young carers. (see 'Useful Contacts')
YCF	York Carers Forum: local carer led group offering support to carers and working to ensure the voice of carers is heard on local planning groups. (see 'Useful Contacts')
YCVS	York Council for Voluntary Services. (see 'Useful Contacts')

Appendix 1 National Drivers

The Disabled Persons (Services, Consultation and Representation) Act 1986

During an assessment of a disabled person's needs, consideration must be given to the ability of the carer to continue to care.

The NHS and Community Care Act 1990

This legislation requires that local authorities involve families and carers when making plans to assist adults who are vulnerable.

The Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995

Under this Act, if a person was being assessed under the 1990 Community Care Act, the carer could request an assessment of their need for support to continue caring; the results of such carer assessments are also to be taken into account when developing services for the customer.

The Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000

This entitles carers over the age of 16, including parents of disabled children a right to an assessment, irrespective of whether the person they support has been assessed or is receiving services. It also gives local authorities the power to provide services direct to the carer to meet their assessed needs and enables carers to apply for direct payments to meet their own needs.

The Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004

Gave local authorities the following duties:

- to inform carers of their right to an assessment;
- to give consideration to the wishes of a carer to work, to undertake education or training, or to engage in leisure activities.

The Act also gave local authorities the right to ask assistance from other authorities in planning the provision of services to carers.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005

Concerns people who lack mental capacity and those who take decisions on their behalf. It clarifies many aspects of common law in relation to capacity and consent. It provides a framework for people ages 16+ who may lack capacity to make decisions. It makes clear who can take decisions and how they should go about this. The Act replaces current statutory schemes for enduring Powers of Attorney and Court of Protection receivers with reformed and updated schemes.

Our Health, Our Care, Our Say: A New Direction for Community Services, White Paper 2006

This announced a 'New Deal' for carers including setting up a national helpline, training for carers, funding for emergency planning and the planned revision of the National Carers Strategy.

The Work and Families Act 2006

Carers have the right to request flexible working if they are the spouse, partner or relative of the cared for, or if they live in the same household.

In addition the following relate to specific 'customer' groups:

Mental Health National Service Framework 1999

This National Service Framework for Mental Health spells out national standards for mental health, what they aim to achieve, how they should be developed and delivered, and how to measure performance in every part of the country.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4006057

Older People National Service Framework 2001

The National Service Framework (NSF) for Older People was published in March 2001 as a ten-year programme and set new national standards and service models of care across health and social services for all older people, whether they live at home, in residential care or are being looked after in hospital.

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/SocialCare/Deliveringadultsocialcare/Olderpeople/NSFforOlderPeopleandsystemreform/index.htm>

Valuing people now: a new three-year strategy for people with learning disabilities

This follows on from the white paper **Valuing People** (2001).

Valuing people now sets out the Government's strategy for people with learning disabilities for the next three years following consultation. It also responds to the main recommendations in Healthcare for All, the independent inquiry into access to healthcare for people with learning disabilities.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_093377

Every Child Matters 2003

This Green Paper aimed to strengthen preventative services for children concentrating on four themes:

- Increasing the focus on supporting families and carers - the most critical influence on children's lives;
- Ensuring necessary intervention takes place before children reach crisis point and protecting children from falling through the net;
- Addressing the underlying problems identified in the report into the death of Victoria Climbié - weak accountability and poor integration;
- Ensuring that the people working with children are valued, rewarded and trained.

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/>

Long Term Conditions National Service Framework 2005

The NSF aims to transform the way health and social care services support people to live with long-term neurological conditions.

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/NationalServiceFrameworks/Long-termNeurologicalConditionsNSF/index.htm>

End of Life Care Strategy - promoting high quality care for all adults at the end of life (2008)

This is the first guidance of its sort published in England, and has been produced to enable choices for people re end of life care.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_086277

The National Dementia Strategy 2009

The Department of Health has developed a national strategy for dementia services which was published in February 2009.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_094058

Appendix 2 Local Strategies and Service Plans

Older People

- **Selby, York and Easingwold Older People's Strategy (2005-2010)**
'Never Too Old – A multi-agency older people's strategy 2005 –2010' includes the aim of wanting older people to have *"Support for the role of their CARERS, including supporting older people who are carers themselves"*. It highlights the need to support the health needs of carers.
- **City of York Commissioning Strategy for Older People 2006 – 2021**
This recognises that work is needed to ensure that carers needs are understood and met. The hypotheses in the report's conclusion include: *"An increase and targeting of resources and support to carers (especially those caring for older people with dementia) will contribute to maintaining someone in the community and minimise the risk of the carers ill health and in-ability to care"*.
http://www.york.gov.uk/health/Services_for_older_people/

Mental Health Services

- **NYYPCT, CYC and NYCC Mental Health Commissioning Strategy - draft**
This outlines the National Service Framework for Mental Health and Standard Six, Caring about carers. Local commissioning intentions include carer recognition and support.
- **NYYPCT, Mental Health Services - draft July 2008, Providing services to people with mental health and associated problems.**

Adults with Physical and Sensory Impairment

- **City of York Council Strategy of the Development of Services to Support People with a Physical and/or Sensory Impairment**
This strategy has been developed during 2008. Desired outcomes for carers are identified as *'Supported carers'* and *'Prevention of Carer Breakdown'*.
<http://www.york.gov.uk/health/Disabilities/strategy/>

Adults with Learning Disabilities

- **Selby, York and Easingwold – Commissioning Strategy Community Team for People with Learning Disability March 2008**
An ageing population of both customers and carers is identified as a future trend. The Partnership Board has identified *"More involvement for families and customers"* as one of its priority areas.
- **York Valuing People Partnership Board**
In response to the renewal of the government's 2001 White Paper, 'Valuing People', and the issue in draft of 'Valuing People Now; From Progress to Transformation', during 2008 the Board has been in the process of restructuring and renewing its aims and objectives. The Board actively includes family carers in its work.

Appendix 3 Equality Impact Assessment

Equalities Impact Assessment Toolkit for High Level Strategies

This toolkit uses many of the questions from the Government Office's toolkit for Local Area Agreements. It provides a basic set of challenging questions to assess the extent to which equality issues are considered and incorporated into high-level strategies (e.g. the LAA, Sustainable Community Strategy, Community Safety Strategy, Corporate Strategy etc.). Omit any questions that are not relevant to your strategy.

The toolkit asks various questions and then gives you 2/3 possible answers (yes, no or some) and an explanation and evidence column to add:

- What evidence you have to support your answer (if in the positive) giving practical examples, or;
- If you have no evidence, why this is so and, what plans you have to rectify this.

Name of Strategy	Who is conducting this EIA?
York Strategy for Carers	Name: Frances Perry
	Job Title: Carers Strategy Manager
	Contact Details: Housing and Adult Social Services, 10/12 George Hudson Street, York YO1 6ZE
	Tel: 01904 554188 Email frances.perry@york.gov.uk
Describe the Strategy: What is the purpose of the strategy (describe in simple, easy to understand terms)	
• To make clear the priorities for support and services to carers in York • To ensure all carers and agencies are aware of the priorities • To enable all agencies involved in community and health care to effectively promote the health and well-being of carers	

Equality Aims in the Strategy

	Yes	No	Explanation and Evidence
Does the Strategy have an equalities statement (or vision / policy) that specifically mentions the 6 strands?	Yes		The Strategy reflects the Carers National Strategy -Carers at the heart of 21 st century families and communities, M Government, June 2008.

(Race, disability, gender, sexual orientation, religion and belief, and age)			Chapter 2 outlines the National Strategic vision that by 2018 <i>“carers will be recognised and valued as being fundamental to strong families and stable communities. Support will be tailored to meet the individuals’ needs enabling carers to maintain a balance between their caring responsibilities and life outside caring, whilst enabling the person they support to be a full and equal citizen.”</i>
How did you decide what went into this statement?	The statement is based on the vision from national documents		
Has it been agreed by all partners?		No	This will be part of the process of partners agreeing and signing up to the strategy.
What processes are in place to monitor progress on achieving this statement?	The Carers Strategy Group is responsible to implement and monitor the progress of the work to put the Strategy in practice through agreed Action Plans.		
Whom will this be reported to?	The Strategy Group is a multi-agency forum and members are responsible for reporting to/from their organisations and agencies.		

Development of the Strategy

Has the Strategy considered:	Yes	No	Explanation and Evidence
The make up of the local population at the time of writing the strategy?	Yes		Chapter 3 provides information available about the local carer population.
Potential changes to the local population over the life of the Strategy? e.g. aging population (and therefore an increase in disabled people), increasing black and minority ethnic population etc.	Yes		Chapter 3 provides a summary of the predicted changes to the local carer population.
How information on different communities’ needs is collected and used by the council and partners.		No	This will be developed further in the writing and implementation of the Action Plans.

e.g. to: a) plan and manage services b) develop indicators/targets c) Monitor progress.			
Any limitations of current data and what will be done to address this?	Yes		There has been limited progress in the past two years in identifying carers from BME communities. It is planned that the new database at York Carers Centre will improve this from April 2009. Work is required to improve joint collection and sharing of data between social care, health and voluntary sector organisations.

Equality Legal Duties

What actions are in the strategy to promote our legal duties to:	Yes	No	Explanation and Evidence
Eliminate <u>discrimination and harassment</u> on the grounds of race, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation, and religion and belief?	Yes		This will be done by developing links with local organisations eg York Racial Equality Network. Work is underway to enable a Young Carers Forum to be set up.
Promote <u>equality of opportunity</u> between Black and minority ethnic (BME) and white British people, disabled and non-disabled and men and women?	Yes		All work with carers involved mixed groups including men and women and disabled and non-disabled people.
<u>Promote good relations</u> between different ethnic groups (not just BME and white British people)		No	
Promote <u>positive attitudes</u> towards disabled people (and other communities)	Yes		Carers include people with disabilities, and care for people with disabilities. Links will be made with proposed PSI partnership group, and work to set up a CIL locally.

Promote <u>participation by disabled people</u> in public life?	Yes		Carers with disabilities will be included in all the work of the Carers Strategy and its implementation.
N.B. These duties apply to everyone – private, public and voluntary and community sectors. Therefore they apply to organisations providing services or goods on our behalf (and it's our responsibility to make sure they are complying with equalities legislation in this capacity).			

Links from this Strategy to other Strategies or Policies / Working Practices

	Yes	No	Explanation and Evidence
Do any policies or other strategies need to be changed to reflect the objectives or actions in this strategy?		No	
Do any policies or other strategies that sit under this strategy need to be Equality Impact Assessed?		No	
Who will do this?			

Implementation

	Yes	No	Some	Explanation and Evidence
Do staff / partners have the skills and capacity to achieve the equality aims and actions in this strategy?			Yes	Awareness training courses may be required and additional resources to implement equality work amongst all staff and partners.
If not, how is this being addressed?				

Involvement & Consultation

	Yes	No	Explanation and Evidence
What consultation mechanisms are in place to engage the views of communities on this strategy?	The Strategy has been developed following wide consultation with carers in Summer 2007. The final draft of the Strategy will be distributed widely for consultation.		
Are consultation methods inclusive and accessible?	Yes		Information is available in different formats. Work to involve carers includes working to make meetings

			accessible.
Have you actively sought the views of groups from the 6 equality strands on this strategy? (either individuals or community or voluntary groups) If so, which groups?	Yes		Unpaid carers encompass all communities. We need to undertake work to identify the numbers of carers from BME communities, and lesbian and gay carers, and assess if their needs require special attention. There is also a need to engage with carers of people with substance misuse and alcohol problems.
Are there arrangements in the Strategy for on-going dialogue with groups from the 6 equality strands?	Yes		The Strategy will be implemented by groups involving carers and the carers forums in York. There are 4 carer members on the Carers Strategy Group and plans to include young carers in the future.
How are these views used in the Strategy decision-making processes?	Through the Carers Strategy Group meetings.		
Will groups from the 6 strands be involved in setting priorities or targets in the strategy and assessing progress on these?	Yes		There is planned work to set up a Young Carers Forum. There is work to identify the ethnicity of carers and record information about the impairment/condition of the cared for person via the Carers Centre database.

Communication

	Explanation and Evidence
How has the Strategy been communicated to partners and the public?	It will be available, electronically, hard copy, on the web site and in alternative formats if required.

Partnerships

Has this strategy stimulated any specific areas for partnership development or improvement?	Yes	No	Explanation and Evidence
Community involvement?	Yes		Involvement of newly developed carers forums, and renewing

			mechanisms for carer representatives to sit on the Carers Strategy Group. Work to set up a Young Carers Forum.
Consultation mechanisms?	Yes		Summary of the Carers Strategy in plain English on the CYC website. Ongoing carer involvement is part of the work of the Carers Strategy Group.
Community cohesion and equality (e.g. fulfilling legislative duties)?	Yes		By developing links with specialist groups – YREN, Mesmac.
Assessment and analysis of specific community needs?	Yes		The need to record ethnicity of carers and identify and meet needs of specific groups e.g. carers of people with substance misuse problems.
Development or improvement of data and profiling of data?	Yes		Yes – plan to work in partnership with York Carers Centre and health re collecting accurate information about numbers of carers in York.
Monitoring and evaluation of the strategy?	Yes		The Strategy Group will develop and monitor action plans for implementation of the Strategy
Equalities Impact Assessments?	Yes		Develop one re information work in 2009.
Priority setting?	Yes		This is integral to the Strategy

Key Issues and Actions (this bit will be made public)**Summarise the key equalities issues contained in this strategy?**

Unpaid carers can be viewed as an equality strand in their own right, and encompass people affected by issues relating to all the 6 equality strands.

Identifying the numbers of, and potential need for specialist work required with groups of carers from the 6 equality strands.

Continuing work to involve carers from all communities and equality strands in the work of the Strategy.

What are the key actions you are taking to address these issues?

Continue to promote the raising of carer awareness amongst professionals and organisation locally, and improve carer identification.

Ensure local databases record information about carer's equality status, and workers identify carers needs appropriately.

Continue to support the existing carers forums in the City and the development of new ones e.g. Young Carers Forum.

Appendix 4 Useful Contacts

Local organisations

Age Concern York - provides personal and practical services for older people and their carers and works with statutory agencies to develop these services.

Telephone 01904 627995

www.ageconcernyork.org.uk

CANDI – Children and Inclusion - is a forum for parents/carers of children with disabilities and/or additional needs from ages 0-19 yrs of age. We meet once a month and would welcome any new members to join us. The aim of the group is to work with the City of York Council and health professionals to influence decisions that can affect our children. These include swimming, gym clubs, horse riding etc. as well as family initiatives that include family meals, theatre trips, river boat trips etc. All new ideas and suggestions are very welcome.

For further information contact Jo Whitehead, Project Officer on projectofficer@yorcandi.org.uk

Telephone - 0775 1828369

www.yorcandi.org.uk

City of York Council will provide information and advice to local people on a range of housing and social care issues. Depending on your query please direct it to one of the following departments:

Adults Social Services -

Initial Assessment & Safeguarding Team

Tel: 01904 555111

Fax: 01904 554055

e-mail: adult.socialsupport@york.gov.uk

Children's Social Care -

Referral & Assessment Team

Tel: 01904 551900

Fax: 01904 555602

e-mail: childrens.socialcare@york.gov.uk

Housing Options

Tel: 01904 554500

Fax: 01904 554119

e-mail: housing.options@york.gov.uk

Crossroads – York Branch - Gives support in the home to the carers of children and adults with care needs. Free service to Carers following a full assessment by Social Services. (Self referrals can be made to Crossroads by Carers who are prepared and able to pay for the services). Telephone 01904 790200

Future Prospects - Free learning and work advice centre, based at 24 Swinegate, York. Drop in service, no appointment required.
Telephone 01904 634748 or 0800 834239
<http://www.futureprospects.org.uk/>

North Yorkshire and York Families and Carers Service – is a service for carers whose families have been affected by substance misuse. Whether you are a parent, child, grandparent, brother or extended family member, this service is for you. We offer a client centred service with individual support packages that enable the family to cope with the problems that arise from addiction.

Telephone 0800 731 6338 or email northyorkfamilycare@btconnect.com

PALS - Patient Advice and Liaison Service exists to listen to patients, relatives and carer's comments, offer advice and information, and deal with any concerns about health care services. There are two local services one for issues relating to York Hospital, and one for Primary Care Services.

PALS - York Hospitals Trust: Telephone 726262 or email pals@york.nhs.uk

PALS – North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust:

Tel: 0800 06 88 000 nyy-pct.pals@nhs.net

York Alzheimer's Society – Provide a range of information, advice and support including an 8 week 'Caring and Coping' education course for carers of people with dementia. It includes a wide range of topics, for example, power of attorney, moving and handling, coping strategies.

Tel: Helpline 01904 658106

Regional office - 01904 633804

Holgate Villa, 22 Holgate Road, York

email: yorkbranch@alzheimers.org.uk

York and District MIND – provide counselling, advocacy, support groups and information services. MIND Carer Counselling Service offers free counselling sessions to carers of people with mental health problems, including Alzheimer's disease. The carer must be aged 18+. The cared-for person must be aged up to 65.

Telephone 01904 466690 www.yorkmind.org.uk

York Carers Centre - offers an information and advice, signposting, group events, activities and training. The Carers Centre mailing list and registration is free of charge and ensures carers receive free copies of the quarterly newsletter, invitations to events, activities and other initiatives.

York Carers Centre, Nursery Block, 17 Priory St, York YO1 6ET Tel: 01904 715490

www.yorkcarerscentre.co.uk or email enquiries@yorkcarerscentre.co.uk

York Carers Forum - The Forum is a carer led group. All unpaid carers are invited to join the group as members, and are very welcome at the group's regular meetings. In 2009 meetings will be held on the 4th Monday of the month, 1 – 3pm at City Mills, Skeldergate, York.

Please contact Katie Smith on 01904 422437 yorkcarersforum@tiscali.co.uk

Young Carers Service - part of York Carers Centre. Offers advice, information and support for young carers (aged 8 -18).

York Carers Centre, Nursery Block, 17 Priory St, York YO1 6ET Tel: 01904 715490 enquires@yorkcarerscentre.co.uk

York Citizens Advice Bureau - Provides advice, information and advocacy on any matter, in particular benefits, debt, employment and housing.

Appointment booking line: 01904 623550

Recorded information and advice line – 0844 826 9705

www.yorkcab.org.uk or email admin@yorkcab.org.uk

York Council for Voluntary Service – YCVS offer advice, training, information and support to local voluntary organisations and community groups in order to help them work more effectively. York CVS, 15 Priory Street, York Telephone 01904 621133 yorkcvs@yorkcvs.org.uk

National Organisations

Carers UK

Carers UK is the voice of carers, that recognises that as a consequence of caring, many carers can experience ill health, poverty and discrimination. Carers UK is an organisation of carers who campaign in order that people recognise the true value of carers' contribution to society and carers get the practical, financial and emotional support they need. They provide advice and information about carers' rights.

Contact details: <http://www.carersuk.org/Contactus>

Carersline: 0808 808 7777 or 020 7378 4999

Carers Direct is a national advice line that offers free, confidential information and advice to help you as a carer. This includes information on money and legal issues, your wellbeing, as well as work and study options available to you.

Telephone - 0808 802 0202

www.nhs.uk/Carersdirect/ or email CarersDirect@nhschoices.nhs.uk

The Princess Royal Trust for Carers

The Princess Royal Trust for Carers was created on the initiative of HRH The Princess Royal in 1991. At that time people caring at home for family members or friends with disabilities and chronic illnesses were scarcely recognised as requiring support. The Princess Royal Trust for Carers is the largest provider of comprehensive carers support services in the UK. Through its unique network of 144 independently managed Carers' Centres, 85 young carers services and interactive websites. The Trust currently provides quality information, advice and support services to almost 354,000 carers, including over 20,000 young carers.

In addition, The Trust also acts independently in the interests of carers through research, development and consultation; influence on national, regional and local policy; partnerships with other national organisations; information through our interactive websites; and providing advice and access to support groups.

Contact details: 0844 800 4361

www.carers.org

www.youngcarers.net

info@carers.org

Crossroads – caring for carers

A Crossroads service is about giving time - improving the lives of carers by giving them a break from their caring responsibilities. Our aim is to provide a reliable, tailored service, for each carer and the person they care for. We have

140 schemes in England and Wales, which provide a range of services. Every scheme provides practical support where and when it is most needed - usually in the home. A trained Carer Support Worker will take over from the carer to give them 'time to be themselves'. We talk to the carers about how often they would like us to visit, how long the visit should be and at what time they would like our support provided. They then have 'time' to use as they wish - to see friends, keep appointments, study, read or even just to sleep.

Contact details: 0845 450 0350

www.crossroads.org.uk

Caring with Confidence offers learning and development opportunities to carers aged 18 and over in England. Its aim is to help carers build on skills and knowledge, which carers can access through local group sessions or at home using workbooks or the internet. The Caring with Confidence programme is designed to fit around people's lives and caring responsibilities. Carers can pick and choose how many sessions they attend, and how they get involved – from local group sessions to self-study workbooks and online sessions.

Telephone 0800 849 2349

Email:

cwc.info@caringwithconfidence.net or visit www.caringwithconfidence.net

Every Disabled Child Matters

EDCM is a campaign by four leading organisations working with disabled children and their families – [Contact a Family](#), [Council for Disabled Children](#) (CDC), [Mencap](#) and the [Special Educational Consortium](#) (SEC). We will challenge politicians and policy-makers to make good on the Government's commitment that every child matters.

EDCM is an inclusive campaign. We support and represent thousands of disabled children, young people and families. Through CDC and SEC, the campaign represents hundreds of organisations, professionals, and disabled people working with and for disabled children, young people and their families. EDCM is based at the Council for Disabled Children, which is hosted by the National Children's Bureau.

For general enquiries: www.edcm.org.uk

Email: info@edcm.org.uk

Phone: 020 7843 6082

Postal address:

Every Disabled Child Matters, c/o Council for Disabled Children, 8 Wakley Street, London, EC1V 7QE