

## **Carers Strategy Update Report**

### **Summary**

1. Following a Carers' Review completed by the Health Overview Scrutiny Committee in 2010/11 the Committee recommended that they should receive an annual update report on the Carers Strategy. This is the third annual review to be submitted.

### **Background**

2. The Carers Strategy Group is a partnership of carers, professionals and provider organisations from social care, health and the third sector. It meets regularly to monitor and oversee the implementation of York Strategy for Carers 2011 – 2015.

### **Consultation**

3. The Carers Strategy Group includes carer representatives from the three carer-led forums in the city: Young Carers Revolution; CANDI; and York Carers Forum. In addition the following specific consultations have taken place:
  - A review of carer commissioned services in summer 2013 included sending out a stakeholder questionnaire and a consultation event for carers was held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2013. Feedback was collated and circulated.  
(Annex 2 - Review of commissioned services for carers in York 2013 'Feedback from the Review' July 2013)
  - Detailed feedback from carers was collated following a pilot scheme offering small grants to run groups for carers in spring 2013. This demonstrated very positive outcomes for individual carers.  
(Annex 3 Carers small grants for support groups Evaluation of pilot scheme 2013)

## Carers Strategy Update

### 4. Achievements

- The waiting list for Carers Assessments has been successfully reduced from 185 in April 2013 to 35 as at 11th March 2014.
- Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group has actively engaged in raising carer awareness in GP surgeries and primary health care.
- Young Carers Revolution ran a very well attended event in June 2013 for carers week, alongside the Parliamentary Outreach service, engaging in direct discussion with MPs.
- Young Adult Carers work developed at York Carers Centre, including the setting up of a network for professionals.
- York Carers Forum contributed in national, regional and local forums speaking and contributing on End of Life Care.
- Carers members of York Carers Strategy Group gave a successful presentation to the Health and Wellbeing Board in July 2013, who adopted York Carers Charter.
- Contribution to the development of the Carer's Trust, 'Carer Hub Toolkit for Commissioners'.
- The back care project successfully produced a range of factsheets and an online DVD to support carers in maintaining their health.
- Pilot of preventative work to support carers through community groups reported positive outcomes for carers and included specific groups to target 'hard to reach' carers.
- In Adult Social Care York performed very well in the key outcome measure 'Carer reported quality of life' for 2012-13.

Indicator 2012 - 13	York	Family group	Region	England
1D - Carer-reported quality of life score	8.5	8.3	8.3	8.1

### 5. What still needs to be done

- Ongoing review of Carers Strategy partnership arrangements to ensure effective links with Health and Wellbeing Board, including active sign up and promotion of York Carers Charter.
- Work to implement the Care Bill and Children and Families bill re duties concerning carer assessments and access/provision of services; provision of information; and prevention.

- Health and social care integration: ensure support for carers and access to breaks is integral to work to implement the Better Care Fund requirements.
- Encourage active involvement and identification of a carer's lead at York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.
- Review carer involvement arrangements when CYC's Customer Engagement Strategy is established.
- Launch work to implement a 'universal offer' for carers to ensure increased identification of carers and more effective access to information, advice and support.
- Consider further work to identify carers from BME communities, following initial work which did not have a successful outcome.

### **Analysis**

6. The report is provided for information and consideration. Members are also asked to clarify if they wish to continue to receive the report on an annual basis.

### **Council Plan**

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

### **Implications**

#### **Financial**

8. All actions are accommodated within existing budgets.

#### **Equalities**

9. An Equalities Impact Assessment was completed for York Strategy for Carers 2011-15.

The actions arising are:

- Continue to improve accessibility of information for carers and key workers and improve identification of 'hidden' carers.

- Ensure information about carers' ethnicity is appropriately recorded by City of York Council, York Carers Centre and all Carers Strategy partner organisations to inform future service planning.
- Use existing contact mechanisms with BME, multi-faith and multi-cultural groups to identify the numbers of carers from BME communities and take appropriate action.
- Monitor the progress City of York Council makes in implementing the 'Carer Friendly Employer Chartermark' Action Plan.

### **Other**

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

### **Risk Management**

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

### **Recommendations**

12. The report is presented for information and consideration.

Reason: In line with the previously completed Carer's Review, to provide the Committee with their annual update report on the Carers Strategy.

### **Contact Details**

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**Report  
Approved**



**Date** 10 April 2014

**Wards Affected: All**

**All**



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

**Annexes**

**Annex 1** - York Carers Strategy 2011- 15

**Annex 2** - Review of commissioned services for carers in York 2013  
'Feedback from the Review' July 2013

**Annex 3** - Carers small grants for support groups  
Evaluation of pilot scheme 2013

**Annex 4** - York Carers Strategy Action Plan 2011-15 – draft progress  
update and forward planner March 2014.