

Carers Strategy

POSITION STATEMENT NOVEMBER 2011

Strategy Launch – 13 June

The strategy was launched to carers on June 13th at a special drop in event held at the Holiday Inn in Portsmouth. The day was widely publicised (Radio/The News/Flagship/Website/invites to all known carers etc.) and 109 carers came along on the day.

As well as launching the strategy the day was set up as a “breaks day for carers” with a range of activities available; 65 carers received physical therapies (massage/manicures/ pedicures/beauty), 46 received health checks, 9 underwent a carers assessment and many more took away self assessment forms. 40 carers signed up to be part of the new carers council.

A communications plan was put in place to ensure that the strategy was also launched to staff, providers and other stakeholders via press releases, intranet, staff magazines, newsletters etc.

Early work

- **Carers Strategy Management Structure**

A structure was created to manage the implementation and progression of the strategy.

- **Carers Council**

A carers council has been established to support the new management structure. A Hampshire based carer-led organisation, Carers Together, has been contracted to initiate and support a carers council. The carers council will be open to all current adult carers to scrutinise and contribute to the work of the strategy and it will have representation on the executive board. The first meeting will be held on 14 November.

- **CQUINs**

Carers CQUINs have been established in both PHT and Solent NHS Trust (community) contracts for 2011-12. As well as identifying and giving information to carers, providers will need to establish carers’ leads and champions in organisations and services. Leads and champions are expected to be involved in the work of the carer strategy. Discussions are underway with Adult Social Care “provider services” around roles & responsibilities and performance management.

- **Finance**

There have been a number of attempts to identify the exact spend on direct and indirect services to carers in both Portsmouth NHS and in PCC. This becomes more of a priority as the government drives forward the requirement to involve carers in deciding what we spend and how we spend it to support carers. There have been a number of meetings set up with PCC finance and it is anticipated we will have a clear picture of Adult Social Care spend within the next two weeks.

- **Flagship**

A two page spread has been booked for the next 18 editions of Flagship starting December 2011. The pages will initially be used to promote the strategy and latterly to support strategy priorities, in particular those relating to identifying and giving information and support to carers.



- **Carers Assessments (Adults)**

As supported self assessment is central to the success of the strategy, early discussion and negotiation has taken place with health and social care managers in order to improve access, refine the pathway and processes and remove blocks. This work is in its early stages although agreement in principle has been achieved for supported self assessment to be the first option for all carers.

- **Young carers**

The young carers priority is being led by Mike Stoneman, Strategic Commissioning Manager, Education, Children and Young People Directorate, PCC. Actions will be progressed under Priority D of the Children's Trust Plan 2011-14. A key area of work will be to clarify the position of the young carers service in relation to the redesigned targeted youth support service which is due to operate from September 2012.

Action planning – multi-agency workshop, 26 October

A workshop was arranged to engage senior staff, leads and carers champions in statutory and voluntary agencies in the strategy planning. During the day the group reviewed each of the strategy actions and categorised them into work/sub groups. Membership and chairs for each sub group and for the planning group were then identified. Discussion followed about carer involvement and the roles and responsibilities of carers leads and champions (now called carers link workers). It was agreed that a carers link workers support group will be set up and have representation on the planning group.

The planning group will take responsibility for the planning and monitoring system, for monitoring the work of the sub groups and for reporting to the carers council and executive board. The first meeting will take place on 14 December 2011. The planning group will present the fully developed year one action plan and highlight report to the executive board in April.

