

Report to Cabinet

Title:	Support for Carers In-Depth Review
Date:	Monday 13 May 2019
Date can be implemented:	Tuesday 21 May 2019
Author:	Brian Roberts, Chairman of Health & Adult Social Care
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Local members affected:	All
Portfolio areas affected:	Health & Wellbeing, Resources and Education

For press enquiries concerning this report, please contact the media office on 01296 382444

Summary

The Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee set up an inquiry to review the current support for carers. The themes of “Building Carer Friendly Communities” a research report for Carers Week 2016 were used to inform the structure of the inquiry. The five themes are – Communities, Health, Voice of Carers, Education and Employment. A day of evidence gathering was held on 30th October 2018 and the inquiry group heard from representatives from the voluntary sector, the health and mental health sector, senior officers from the Council’s Adult Social Care, Education, HR and OD services. The inquiry group also heard from carers, both verbally and through written evidence.

The attached report (Appendix 1) details the Inquiry Group’s key findings and recommendations.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1 (Communities – slides 17-20 in the report):

That an action plan is created with key partners which brings together the working practices of the operational and commissioning teams to ensure better sharing of information on carers and early detection of issues.

That the action plan:

- creates a single point of access for all carers (see slide 26) and includes signposting for financial assistance, care planning, assessment and review guidance, health and social care needs (including specific information for self-funders);
- develops a single assessment form which can be accessed by all key organisations;
- includes timescales and measurable outcomes to help demonstrate improved support for carers of all ages year on year;
- includes specific actions for young carers to help increase identification and introduces a measure to track their educational attainment;
- ensures contingency care plans are in place for all carers - reviewed regularly as part of the carer assessment reviews.

Recommendation 2 (Health – slides 21-24)):

That good practice with GPs is developed further and experience of undertaking the GP Award is shared with all practices through the Practice Manager Forum.

Recommendation 3 (Health – slides 21-24):

That an independent review be undertaken of the GP Standard award to seek views from GP practices and use the feedback to make changes to the existing framework with the aim of increasing the take-up of the award.

Recommendation 4 (Health – slides 21-24):

That the costs for providing annual health checks for carers be explored and possible funding streams investigated.

Recommendation 5 (Education – slides 30-33):

That the Council lobby Government to include a question about the number of young carers identified at school as part of the annual school census return.

Recommendation 6 (Employment – slides 34-40):

That a corporate training programme be developed for BCC Managers and other partners within the ICS to help identify and support carers, to coincide with the launch of the employee health & wellbeing strategy.

Recommendation 7 (Employment – slides 34-40):

That an employee carers support group be established and an annual survey be undertaken to find out the views of carers and help shape future support for carers services.

Recommendation 8 (Employment – slides 34-40):

That the Employee Assistance Programme be more widely promoted amongst employees and feedback from users be obtained to ensure service quality.

A. Narrative setting out the reasons for the decision

See report as set out in Appendix 1.

B. Other options available, and their pros and cons

As above.

C. Resource implications

The resource implications of all recommendations are to be considered as part of Cabinet's response to the Inquiry Report.

D. Value for Money (VfM) Self Assessment

As above.

E. Legal implications

N/A

F. Property implications

There are no property implications.

G. Unitary Council

There are no specific issues identified for consideration by the Unitary Council.

H. Other implications/issues

None identified.

I. Feedback from consultation, Local Area Forums and Local Member views

N/A

J. Communication issues

Cabinet's response to the recommendations will be published.

K. Progress Monitoring

Where recommendations are agreed by Cabinet, the lead officer for each recommendation will be asked to provide a written progress update to the lead Cabinet Member. The Cabinet Member and relevant officers will be invited to the Select Committee to follow-up on the progress of the recommendations at 6 & 12 months.

L. Review

See above.

Background Papers

The background papers are listed at the end of the Inquiry report (Appendix 1).

Your questions and views

If you have any questions about the matters contained in this paper please get in touch with the Contact Officer whose telephone number is given at the head of the paper.

If you have any views on this paper that you would like the Cabinet Member to consider, or if you wish to object to the proposed decision, please inform the Democratic Services Team by 5.00pm on Friday 10 May 2019. This can be done by telephone (to 01296 382343), or e-mail to democracy@buckscc.gov.uk