



Executive Partnership Board

Report

Title: Carers Partnership Board

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Carers Partnership Board - Update

Membership:

Further to SUCO undertaking work to secure further carers representatives to the board, the June meeting saw an additional 5 carers attend the meeting in shadow form – all carers in attendance have expressed that they would like to continue to attend. The membership of board is broadly representative of carers with a further carer of an older person to be sought.

The carers were supported by SUCO.

Carers Breaks

The Partnership Board welcomed Zita and the launch of the short breaks scheme. The board formally recognised Zita work and the role of the board in securing the funding.

NHS Bucks and the Clinical Commissioning Board agreed health funding of £400K towards a new integrated model for short breaks for carers. Priorities within the model of provision are to develop services

that are more responsive to the needs of carers and stimulate greater diversity of provision to allow carers to take a break. Health funding is particularly aimed at carers where their health may be affected as a consequence of their caring role. It is hoped to reach those carers who have not been supported previously to have a break through social care funded provision.

The health funded breaks for carers was launched on June 21st, during carers' week, and the service started 1st July. To date (as of this morning 6th September) we have received 145 referrals via GPs and of those 5 have not been eligible i.e. they have been in receipt of a social care funded break within the last 12 months.

For this pilot of the service it was agreed to have brokers as a key part of the process; this is in order to ensure that carers are provided with support for planning their break to best suit their situation. Brokers have also formed a key role in ensuring the collation of evidence regarding self assessment of carers and the outcomes for carers accessing the fund, this data will be essential in applying for future and ongoing funding.

Outcomes for carers receiving the fund have been positive. Some carers have a very clear idea about the break they would like to fund and others have taken advantage of the support from brokers in planning how best to use the fund to meet their needs. Outcomes have been varied, including short holidays, gym club memberships, paying for sitting services whilst the carer enjoys a social/leisure or sport related activity. Funds have been used to pay for a one off event and/or shorter regular activities.

The main issues that have arisen in the delivery of the service has been regarding promotion of the service. Every GP practice in the county has received a pack containing the referral form, guidance about the service and a poster promoting the service; in some cases intonation has been re sent twice or numerous times. Training and information sessions have been arranged with practice managers and where necessary meetings with individual GPs. A new poster is to be sent to all GP practices to promote support for carers. In addition, Carers Bucks have been actively promoting the fund to carers and assisting in highlighting and resolving problems that have arisen.

As part of the pilot we will be reviewing the scheme at the end of September; to improve the process for delivering the service, reviewing the outcomes for carers and resolving any issues.

Other items covered:

SVAB – update
Priorities template
Wycombe District Council – Task and Finish Group

Care and Support Bill

The September meeting of the board will focus on the Draft Care and Support Bill and its impact on carers. The partnership board recognises this key draft bill and will formulate a response to the consultation.

Carers Assessments

The November meeting will focus on BCC and OH carers assessments looking at quality and care planning issues in response to local concerns regard carers assessments and care planning functions.

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