



# Executive Partnership Board

## Report

**Title:** Carers Partnership Board

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### Carers Partnership Board - Update

#### **GP Commissioning - Briefing from Lou Patten, Interim Accountable Officer for the CCB.**

Lou Patten attended the partnership board setting out the structure for future GP Commissioning and stating commitment to continue Short Breaks Funding to Carers. Lou set out the challenges that lay ahead alongside the need for local involvement in shaping local services.

#### **Carers Bucks Survey 2012**

Carers Bucks is in the process of reviewing the findings of its recent carer's survey. In addition to the responses to specific questions carers were also asked to raise any other issues that they felt were important. Carers Bucks is in the process of grouping these into themes.

The analysis will be completed by the end of November and will be used to inform service development in consultation with BCC commissioners.

## Summary of findings are below

- 69% of carers are women with an average age of approximately 63 while male carers had a higher average age of approximately 70.
- 70% of carers are aged over 60.
- 79% of carers under the age of 61 are female.
- 89% of carers are 'white – British'.
- The high proportion of carers in the above four points have resulted in dominating the analysis and therefore producing relatively small sub-groups in the analysis which makes any statistical results less accurate.
- 35% of carers are caring for someone with more than one disability.
- 74% of carers spend greater than 50 hours caring in a week.
- A third of all carers have been caring for over 10 years.
- Carers with post code areas for High Wycombe and Aylesbury (Walton area only) score lower in the 'Quality of Life' questions for the section 'support from professional bodies for caring' than those from all other post code areas. Note that this was the only section analysed for post code area.
- The collecting data from some 'Asian' carers has resulted in producing a further sub-category for some of the areas analysed with significantly different results.
- 48% of carers answering this question have had a carer's assessment and of these 60% have had an annual review.
- 72% of carers who answered this question believed they were receiving the correct benefits.
- 60% of carers (both male and female) of working age were able to work. However 52% of the male carers were able to work full time compared to only 23% of women.

A full copy of the summary report is available on request.

### **Short breaks for carers:**

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 26th November) we have received 466 referrals via GPs and of those 442 carers have received a one off payment of £500 for a break.

The pilot scheme is being continuously reviewed to ensure that access to the fund and its processes are clear, simple and do not create additional stress to carers. Feedback has been given by carers, GPs, Carers Bucks, independent brokers and internal staff.

Next Steps - an interim report is to be presented to the new CCGs in the next few weeks and an application for future funding submitted before Christmas.

If funding is secured for 2013/14 information and outcomes from the pilot will inform the development of the carers breaks service going forward.

### **Care and Support Bill**

Briefing documents from both Carers UK and the Carers Trust were used in providing the partnership board with a full briefing on all of the

clauses in the new Draft Bill. The partnership board were taken through the Bill and its possible implications.

The partnership board welcomed the proposed increased legal standing for carers and the new duties, but expressed reservation regarding the number of new duties and the lack of clarity as to where this increased demand and responsibility was to be funded.

The partnership board submitted a formal response to the consultation.

### **Carers Assessments**

The following BCC officers attended the partnership board to discuss the carers assessment process and respond to feedback from carers:-

1. Zita Calkin – Commissioning Manager
2. Lynne Downs – Interim Business Manager – Short Term Team
3. Errol Crawford – Team leader – Contact Centre

Lynne Downs helpfully set out the process and the current demand levels. She confirmed that BCC were still offering face to face carers assessments. Errol explained the call management system used by the contact centre and set out a number of improvements that were taking place. Carers expressed dissatisfaction with the process, and the lack of actual care planning resulting in very few options for carers.

BCC – a review is being carried out on the current process for carers' assessments and the services and support provided to carers. A number of workshops with carers were carried out over the summer and these have helped inform the scope of the work necessary to improve services to carers:

- Engaging with colleagues in the contact centre to improve telephone access and responses to carers
- Revising the carers assessment form and process in order to make it more accessible and to include a self assessment element to help carers think about the support they may need (and reflecting best practice)
- Update and improve the information and guidance about the carers assessment
- Develop clear principles for care management around the carers assessment and what can be offered to carers
- Establish a training programme for care managers around the delivery of carers assessments and the legal framework

Work has begun and a working group established with the aim of implementation early next year.

Additional areas covered:-

Hate Crime

Carers partnership Board Priorities