
Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee – 17th July 2012

Report of the Lead Officer to the Committee

Committee Review 2011/12: Caring for Carers

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the draft 2011/12 Committee Review on theme Caring for Carers

Background

2. In July 2011 Members agreed to undertake a review on the theme 'Caring for Carers' with the aim of exploring the effectiveness of practices to support carers across health and social care.
3. An ageing population along with increased life expectancy of younger people with long term illnesses, and community care policy drivers mean the number of people needing care at home continues to grow with support from family members.
4. Recognising the increasingly important role of carers the Committee were keen to examine how they are recognised, engaged supported and valued within the local health community.
5. The Committee appointed a Review Project Board comprising Cllrs: Ridney; R Harris; JD Davies; and P Miller to oversee strategic direction of the review and attend evidence gathering meetings as required. The Board established the following aims and objectives:
 - Assess current support available and evaluate user satisfaction and outcomes of the carers strategy for carers
 - assess the process for needs assessment and access to grants/allowances
 - assess processes helping people to identify themselves as carers and access of information and guidance
 - evaluate effectiveness of partnership arrangements particularly around the area short breaks and leisure
6. Whilst the draft review document, attached at appendix 1 requires final verification of headline budget data it is can be seen as virtually complete. The summary findings and recommendations are presented at the top of the document for convenience.
7. The recommendations will be framed in a mutually agreed action plan involving the Council and external organisations to spur ownership and ensure actions are embedded in service planning across health, care and well-being partnership arrangements.

Finance

8. There are no direct/specific financial implications at this stage; any work progressed would need to be met within existing resources
9. Any specific changes to services provided by the authority as a result of the findings/recommendations of this report would require further explanation and financial implications scrutinised.

Law

10. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 provides for local authorities to review and scrutinise the provision, planning and development health and social care services.

Equality Impact

11. The aims and objectives of this Review can be seen as contributing to the equality agenda in its pursuit of improving care for all. This implies a challenge to ensure that services meet the needs of all sectors of the community to make this an even greater reality in Dudley.

Recommendation

12. It is recommended that the Committee approves the draft document and emerging recommendations for monitoring through future development of the Committee work plan.



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Mohammed Farooq – Assistant Director Corporate Resources
Lead Officer Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

Contact Officer: Aaron Sangian (01384) 814757
aaron.sangian@dudley.gov.uk

Background Papers

Select Committee on Health and Adult Social Care July 2011 - Work Programme 2011/12.