

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 November 2011

## North Yorkshire Carers' Strategy

**1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The Committee has maintained an interest in how the Council supports carers, not necessarily as a topic by itself, but in the context of other reviews, most notably Access to Dementia Services in the County.
- 1.2 In the light of emerging Government policy the Committee thought it timely to review activity and progress against the Carers Strategy, focussing in particular on the personalisation agenda.

**2.0 Context and Background**

- 2.1 This report should be read in conjunction with the statement from North Yorkshire County Council; '[Supporting Carers in North Yorkshire 2011/2012](#)'.
- 2.2 North Yorkshire Council in partnership with NHS North Yorkshire and York and a number of local voluntary organisations developed its local Joint Carers Strategy in 2009/2010, this document was in final draft in August 2010 and was scheduled to run until 2013. The Committee reviewed the document early in 2009. Unfortunately due to the fact that central government was at that time refreshing the National Carers Strategy and uncertainty around budgets in the local authority and the future of the PCT it was felt that the launch of this document would need to be postponed.
- 2.3 The refresh of the National Carers Strategy 'Recognised, valued and supported: Next steps for the carers strategy' was published in November 2010. 'Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities' states that by 2018:
- Carers will be respected as expert care partners and will have access to the integrated and personalised services they need to support them in their caring role.
  - Carers will be able to have a life of their own alongside their caring role.
  - Carers will be supported so that they are not forced into financial hardship by their caring role.

- Carers will be supported to stay mentally and physically well and treated with dignity.
  - Carers have a legal right to have their needs assessed by their local authority if they provide regular and substantial care. By law, local authorities and NHS organisations must also work together to make sure that support for carers is delivered in a coordinated way.
- 2.4 It was decided at that point that due to the fact that we needed to have a commitment in place for carers but uncertainty about funding still existed the most pragmatic approach would be to produce a NYCC document for 12 months allowing us time to look at a longer term joint strategy that would take effect in April 2012.
- 2.5 North Yorkshire County Council's 'Supporting carers in North Yorkshire' is a 12 month statement that has been produced jointly by HAS and CYPS. The intention is to commence joint working again with partners in January 2012 to prepare a three year strategy 2012-2015.
- 3.0 Activity and Progress
- 3.1 The current statement has three main areas of focus:
1. Identification and recognition of carers in North Yorkshire.
  2. Involving carers in the development of services in North Yorkshire.
  3. Carers and personalisation, North Yorkshire County Council's commitment to personalisation and the whole family approach
- 3.2 These areas of work have been progressed in a number of ways. Key has been the establishment of the North Yorkshire Carers Forum which aims to include carers in the development of services in North Yorkshire including having a presence on Health Watch and an influence on the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 3.3 We have also developed new joint contracts with the Carers Resource Centres across the county; consolidating the work they do into one joint contract which is promoting their joint working and development of services to meet carer's needs.
- 3.4 Through reviewing service provision for carers' short breaks (sitting services) we have also been able to identify gaps, areas of inequality and opportunities for consolidation. This has led to the tendering for a 'Sitting Service' in Selby (this area has been without a provider for over 12 months) and the agreement that all of the providers in Hambleton and Richmondshire will come together under a joint contract with one lead agency. Whilst we acknowledge that some inequalities still exist we know that once the service is in place in Selby that a 'Sitting Service' can be accessed by a carer in need anywhere in the county.

3.5 We have also improved the pathways into these services for HAS staff and are in the process of amending all the Service Specifications for these providers into one specification which has been agreed by ourselves and NHS North Yorkshire and York.

#### 4.0 Carers and Personalisation

4.1 One area that is developing and working well is ensuring that carer's needs are recorded and taken into account through the personalisation process. This is done by the carers contributing to the cared for person's needs assessment but also through their own 'carer's assessment'. The next step in this is ensuring that carers are part of the support planning process.

4.2 These are all key areas that are being driven forward in the Carers Statement but also in the North Yorkshire Vision for Social Care.

4.3 We have also, in the statement, maintained our commitment to giving Direct Payments to carers in their own right. This is a service directly to the carer following a need identified in a carer's assessment. At present this is only able to offer the carer funds to assist with a break for themselves or a product or service that will alleviate their caring role. The intention was that the money made available to the PCTs nationally in their baseline budget was to be used for carers' breaks through Direct Payments, however NHS North Yorkshire and York have been unable to identify any money to transfer to NYCC for this purpose so any plans to develop this service further at the time being are not being pursued.

#### 5.0 Conclusions

5.1 This report, when read alongside the Statement, demonstrates the wide range of activity and support for carers provided by the Council and its partners across North Yorkshire.

#### 6.0 Recommendations

6.1 The Committee is asked to:

- a. Note progress to date in developing services for carers, the development of the Carers Statement 'Supporting carers in North Yorkshire' and the intention to work with partners to prepare a three year carers strategy 2012-2015.
- b. Consider if and how it would like to be involved in future work to support carers and families in North Yorkshire.

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Background Documents: None