

REPORT FOR: HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Date of Meeting:	1 November 2018
Subject:	Joint Commissioning Strategy and Action Plan for Carers 2018-2021
Responsible Officer:	Paul Hewitt, Corporate Director People Services (Interim) Javina Sehgal, Chief Operating Officer, Harrow Clinical Commissioning Group
Public:	Yes
Wards affected:	All Wards
Enclosures:	Joint Commissioning Strategy for Carers 2018 -2021 Appendix A Joint Action Plan for Carers 2018-2021

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the strategic priorities and commissioning intentions for the provision of support for carers in Harrow

Recommendations:

The Board is requested to approve the report and plan for implementation

Section 2 – Report

Introduction

1. This report sets out the context in which Carers in Harrow Joint Strategy and Action Plan 2018 – 2021 has been developed. The national legislative framework is set out and the government's vision for carers. The approach adopted in Harrow is then detailed.
2. Carers provide essential support and care to vulnerable people. Their role is vital to the wellbeing of many elderly and chronically unwell people. For many, both men and women can expect to spend around half of their remaining life expectancy in good health. However, the likelihood of being disabled and/or experiencing multiple chronic and complex health conditions among those aged 65 years and over increases with age. As life expectancy increases, so does the amount of time spent in poor health including with dementia.
3. Unpaid caring is not without a cost to the carers. Being a carer may have a negative impact on the carer's own health, with the proportion of people assessing themselves as "not in good health" rising in line with the number of hours of caring they provide. This in turn will add to healthcare demand.
4. Against this impact, it is acknowledged that the role of carers has a significant financial value. The State of Caring Survey estimates that the support provided by the UK's unpaid carers is worth an estimated £132 billion per year. Figures calculated by researchers from the University of Leeds and charity Carers UK, show that there are around 6.4 million people in the UK providing care that would otherwise cost the state £18 an hour, meaning that each carer saves on average £18,473 a year.
5. Given the predicted increase in the number of older people requiring care in the future and the evidence of the current impact of caring on the carer, it is essential that Harrow supports carers to keep families together, to build resilience and to reduce the potential financial impact on health and social care budgets.

Supporting Carers in Harrow

6. The Carers in Harrow Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2021 was developed after consultation and with support from adult and young carers, key stakeholders, local and national data and reflects the national priorities with a 'live' action plan that will be implemented, monitored and updated throughout the life of the strategy by a Carers Action Plan group. The group comprises of representatives from Adult Social Care, Children's Service, Education, the Voluntary Sector (including Harrow Carers, Harrow Mencap and the parents participation group Harrow Parents for Disabled Children (HP4DC)) and will explore how needs can be met within existing resources.

Background

National Context

7. The national context for Harrow's Carers Strategy and Implementation Plan is outlined as follows:
8. The Government introduced the **Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2014** which placed a responsibility on Local Authorities and the whole of society to recognise that carers are entitled to the same life chances as others and not be socially excluded as a result of their caring role. To enable this to be implemented responsibilities for supporting carers needed to be agreed across organisation boundaries.
9. This was further supported by the **2014 Care Act** that came into force in 2015. The Care Act represents the most significant reform of care and support in more than 60 years, putting people and their carers' in control of their care and support. The Act places a responsibility on all organisations to consider and address the needs of carers.
10. The Act combines various existing pieces of legislation which previously shaped how social care was arranged in Britain and changed many aspects of how support is arranged, to give greater control and influence to those in need of support.
11. The cross-government **Action Plan 2018-2020** outlines the programme of work to support carers in England and builds on the National Carers Strategy. It retains the strategic vision for recognising, valuing and supporting carers from 2008, which has been the vision of successive governments. The actions focus on delivery and tangible progress that can be made in the near future, and give visibility to the wide range of work that is planned or already underway across government to support carers, their families and those they care for.
12. The **Children and Families Act 2014** also places a responsibility on Local Authorities to make reasonable steps to identify young carers and provide them with the same rights to an assessment of their needs for support as those of adult carers and to consider how these needs can be met. It also provides parent carers the same right to assessment and support.
13. The **National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)** June 2018 **Dementia: assessment, management and support for people living with dementia and their carers** provides guidance to improve care by making recommendations on training staff and helping carers to support people living with dementia.
14. Further guidance is being developed by NICE "The Provision of Support for Adult Carers" which is due to go out to consultation in early 2019 with the aim of being published in June 2019.

Harrow's Response

15. In line with the Council's vision 'Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow' and the Government's legislation outlined above, joint work has been undertaken by Adult Social Care, Children's Services and

Harrow Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to develop working practices that consider the needs of the whole family to ensure a holistic approach is taken to address all their needs. This approach provides carers with the tools and support required to improve resilience and have the opportunity to lead a life outside their caring role and meets the Council's 3 priorities outlined in the 2018 refresh of the Ambition Plan:

- Build a Better Harrow,
- Protect the Most Vulnerable and Support Families,
- Be More Business Like and Business Friendly,

16. Harrow Council and the CCG are also working in partnership with the Voluntary Sector and carers themselves to ensure Carers are supported in the community. Examples of this partnership working are the development of the Carers Strategy and Action Plan, the development of a working group to monitor the action plan, consultation with carers and young carers and the commissioning of services for delivery by the voluntary sector.
17. Harrow Council and CCG are also working to ensure that Carers are an integral part of all strategies such as the LD & Autism Strategy and that Carers are a priority in commissioned services such as mental health.

Carers in Harrow Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2021

18. Whilst a considerable amount of joint work has been undertaken to ensure that the Government's legislation and statutory requirements have been met by Harrow Council and CCG with the support of key stakeholders, it is recognised that a Strategy and Action Plan needed to be developed to reflect the local agenda and non-statutory support for carers.
19. To develop the strategy, consultation was carried out with carers and young carers through workshops and questionnaires. This was supported by the Voluntary Sector through delivery of the workshops and distribution of questionnaires to carers known to them. Findings from the national biannual carers survey were also considered.
20. The responses and information gathered through this process was used to develop a plan for Harrow adopting the 4 national priority areas which are:
 - i. Identification and Recognition
 - ii. Realising and Releasing Potential
 - iii. A Life Outside of Caring
 - iv. Supporting Carers to Stay Healthy
21. The draft strategy was shared with key stakeholders, CCG, Adult Social Care, Children's Services, organisations from the voluntary sector such as Harrow Carers, Harrow Mencap, Harrow Parents for Disabled Children and carers for comments before being finalised.

22. A draft plan was then developed from the findings of the strategy with some key action points under the strategy's 4 priority areas. A Carers Action Plan Group comprising of representatives from Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Children and Young People with Disabilities Service, Education, Business Intelligence and organisations from the voluntary sector as carer representatives - Harrow Carers and Harrow Mencap, met for the first time to develop the plan further.
23. The plan is a working document that the group will meet on a quarterly basis to review and update with developments and to include identified priorities that arise during the life of the strategy. The impact of changes will be monitored via the statutory biannual carers' survey and local carers' events.
24. The Strategy and Plan have been presented and approved for submission to the Health and Wellbeing Board at Harrow Council and CCG governance structures including the Joint Commissioning Executive.

Financial Implications

25. The Better Care Fund (BCF) 2016-2018 includes £0.782m within the funding agreed to protect social care services. This represents funding for statutory Care Act and carer services.
26. Across health and social care funding totals approximately £1.5m for services which underpin this strategy, and are reviewed annually as part of the budget setting process, which will determine funding in future years.
27. Harrow Council and Harrow CCG will work with the Voluntary Sector to secure funding from external sources to support the wider delivery of identified needs within the strategy and plan.
28. The recommendations to implement the strategy have not identified any additional resource requirements, and this joint strategy will be delivered within existing budgetary provision on an ongoing basis, subject to any legislative changes which may arise from the anticipated Green Paper.

Legal Implications

29. Whilst there is not a statutory requirement for the Local Authority and CCG to develop a carers strategy and plan, the development enables us to engage with carers and ensure that both organisations are working in partnership to meet their needs.

Risk Management Implications

30. There are no known risks.

Equalities implications

31. Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? No
32. In 2004, the government introduced the Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004. The Act ensures that carers are identified and informed of their rights, that their needs for education, training, employment and leisure are

taken into consideration and that public bodies recognise and support carers.

33. The Act acknowledged that carers are entitled to the same life chances as others and should not be socially excluded as a result of their caring role. Responsibilities for supporting carers needed to be agreed across organisational boundaries to ensure that carers are recognised and supported by the whole of society and not just by social services.

Council Priorities

34. The strategy and plan incorporate the following Council priorities:

Protect the Most Vulnerable and Support Families

- Supporting carers to improve their resilience to keep families together, to enable them to continue supporting the cared for person and to reduce the risk of them becoming vulnerable themselves.

Build a Better Harrow

- Supporting carers to access community services and to live and be active members of the community.
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Be More Business Like and Business Friendly

- Work with the local voluntary sector to access external funding to support Carers.
- Supporting carers to access educational and employment opportunities.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance (Council and Joint Reports)

Name: Donna Edwards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 10 October 2018		
Name: Sharon Clarke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 8 October 2018		

Ward Councillors notified:

NO Portfolio Holder
notified

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Kim Chilvers, Commissioner
Email: Kim.Chilvers@harrow.gov.uk
Tel: 020 8736 6292

Background Papers:

None