

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

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| Meeting: | Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee |
| Date: | 8 th December 2003 |
| Subject: | Review of Support to Carers – Action Plan |
| Responsible Chief Officer: | Nick Georgiou, Head of Community Care |
| Relevant Portfolio Holder: | Councillor Margaret Davine |
| Status: | Part 1 |
| Ward: | All |
| Enclosures: | Appendix 1 - Action Plan Appendix 2 - Structure chart |

1. **Summary**

- 1.1 This report sets out an action plan to take forward the recommendations made by the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee in their review of services for carers, which reported in June 2003.

2. **Recommendation**

- 2.1 **To consider and comment upon the action plan attached at Appendix 1;**
- 2.2 **To identify any actions set out in the action plan for progress monitoring.**

3. **Relevance to Corporate Priorities**

- 3.1 This report is relevant to the following corporate priority :

- **We will improve the quality of health and social care in Harrow** by improving the life chances of young people, by promoting and maximising the independence of disabled, frail and chronically ill people, by ensuring appropriate levels of safe care and support for those not able to live independently, and by enabling choice and access to good quality housing.

4. **Background Information**

- 4.1 Since the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee's report on the review of support to carers in June 2003, there have been a number of developments in the management of services for carers. Many of these developments will help to address the

recommendations made by Scrutiny in their review of support to carers. These development include:

- i) The appointment of the Prevention and Carers Strategy Manager, who took up her post at the end of July 2003.
- ii) A review of structures for strategic planning of carer's services. New partnership planning structures have been established with the Carers' Partnership Group and Carers' Commissioning Group (see structure chart attached in appendix 2). A report detailing the arrangements for joint commissioning and service integration will be presented to the December 2003 Cabinet meeting and Harrow PCT Board. It is envisaged that carers will be full members of the Joint Commissioning Management Board that will oversee the service integration agenda.
- iii) Two new groups for carers have been set up, these are the Carers' Action Group set up by Carers Support Harrow and a Carers Forum run by Harrow Mencap. These two groups are intended to feed issues on carer's needs and services into the wider decision making process.
- iv) The Carer's Assessment process is being reviewed and work is on going with care management and the Joint Commissioning Unit to implement changes.
- v) The current Carers Strategy is to be reviewed and a new Strategy with an action plan is to be produced in summer 2004. The needs of carers will be included in the Strategic Commissioning Intentions for 2004/5 to be produced by the Joint Commissioning Unit and in the service plans to be produced by operational services.

5. **Financial Implications**

- 5.1 Financial implications are highlighted in the funding implications section of the action plan attached at Appendix 1.
- 5.2 Nationally the funding for carers through the Carers Grant is to increase substantially from £100million 2003/4 to £125million 2004/5 and to £185 million in 2005/6. In Harrow we are to receive £563, 000 for 2004/5, this is an increase of £116, 000 from 2003/4. The grant is to be used to provide breaks for carers or direct services to carers to support them in their caring role.

6. **Background Papers**

- 6.1 Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee Report, Review of Support to Carers 18th June 2003

7. **Author**

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APPENDIX 1 - Action Plan

| | Scrutiny Recommendations | Action | Lead | Funding Implications | Timescale |
|---|--|---|---|--|-----------------------------|
| 1 | There is insufficient detailed information available about the number, degree and nature of carers in Harrow. This needs to be addressed to enable better planning and access to services. This should include the development of a Carers register. | A comprehensive carers needs analysis is to be undertaken to inform the carers strategy being developed, this is to take account of new information available from the census 2001. Carers' Support Harrow has a carers database for the borough. This is to be developed and kept up to date. | Carers Partnership Group Carers Support Harrow | This is to be met through existing resources | Summer 2004 on-going |
| 2 | More work is required to identify and support young carers, through joint working with the Education sector. | A Young Carer's Development Worker will be reviewing the needs of young carers and working with agencies, especially schools, to ensure joint working is in place to provide the services needed. An item on Young Carers has been formally scheduled for the Children's Senior Management Team, People First on 3 rd December 2003. Senior Managers can ensure the support and access to service areas to identify and support young carers. | Carers Support Harrow | Post has been funded from the Carers Grant | April 2004 |

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|---|---|--|---|--|----------------------------|
| 5 | There is a need to improve the quality and accessibility of information available to carers. | This is an important priority for the Carers Partnership Group. A specification for this work is to be developed by the Information and Communication working group of the Carers Partnership Group. | Carers partnership Group | Underspend from the Carers Grant 2003/4 is to be used to resource this work over the next few months. | November 2003 – April 2004 |
| 6 | The development of more preventative services in partnership with the independent and voluntary sectors should be considered in order to reduce the reliance and demand on mainstream services e.g. the successful bathing service. | A medium term priority will be to ensure prevention is embedded into mainstream social care strategies and resources are effectively targeted to develop services to promote independence. | Joint Commissioning Unit | Resources will need to be targeting to the voluntary and independent sector to deliver preventative services. In the longer term this is likely to demonstrate savings and reduced demand for mainstream services. | March 2005 |
| 7 | There are concerns that the voluntary sector may not be properly funded for its core activities. | The Carers Partnership Group will work in partnership Joint Commissioners to agree priorities for funding for the carers' grant and for Joint commissioning. | Carers Partnership Group and Joint Commissioning Unit | This could have funding implications requiring the redirection of resources from other service areas. | April 2004 |

APPENDIX 2
 PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURES FOR CARERS STRATEGY AND CARERS GRANT ALLOCATION

Partnerships not finalised =

