LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

Meeting: Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Date: 8th 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	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 Partnership Group	This is to be met through existing resources	Summer 2004
	development of a Carers register.	carers database for the borough. This is to be developed and kept up to date.	Carers Support Harrow		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

	Scrutiny Recommendations	Action	Lead	Funding Implications	Timescale
3	The Council provides high quality day care services for all client groups and these support carers. However, services are usually dependent on the availability of Council transport, operate only on weekdays, and within restricted hours. The services should be reviewed to see if there is the demand and potential to develop more flexible services.	Exploring the possible use of other transport services and the demand and capacity for out of hours and extended day care services is to be incorporated into service reconfiguration and the commissioning process. The result of this will inform commissioning intentions. It is intended that carers and service users are members of the Partnership Boards that develop commissioning strategies. The Learning Disabilities Partnership Board is to progress work on three new community resources centres. It has received funding under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) from the Department	Joint Commissioning Unit Learning Disabilities Partnership Board	Service reconfiguration and commissioning will need to be planned within available resources. Funding from Department of Health under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) for capital costs for community resources centre which are	Works to be completed 2005/6
		of Health for capital costs towards three community resource centres, which are to incorporate day opportunities for people.		to incorporate day opportunities for people .	
4	The Council should ensure that resources such as premises are used to their fullest potential for the benefit of carers and service users	The effective use of resources is to be a key element of service modernisation and reconfiguration. This work will be incorporated into the Carers' and Joint Commissioning strategies which aim to address the needs of service users and carers	Carers Partnership Group and Joint Commissioning Unit	Service modernisation and reconfiguration will need to be planned within available resources	April 2005

	Scrutiny Recommendations	Action	Lead	Funding Implications	Timescale
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 main stream 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

