

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	23 rd October 2008
Subject:	Carers Strategy 2008-2011
Key Decision:	Yes
Responsible Officer:	Paul Najsarek, Corporate Director, Adults & Housing
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Barry Macleod-Cullinane, Portfolio Holder, Adults and Housing
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Carers Strategy 2008-2011, Making Change Happen

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report presents to members the Carers Strategy for 2008-2011.

Recommendations: Cabinet is asked to:

1. Agree the Carers Strategy 2008-2011.

Reason: (For recommendation)

The carers strategy helps to deliver the statutory and non-statutory requirements as set out in national and local policies including:

- “Our Health, Our Care, Our Say” White Paper (2006)
- National Carers Strategy ‘Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities: A caring system on your side. A life of your own.’ 2008
- Local Area Agreement target NI 135
- ‘Our Future, Your Future’, Adult and Housing Transformation Programme Plan.
- Corporate Plan 2008-2011, flagship action 3.1
- Draft corporate priorities for 2009/2010, Improve support for vulnerable people

Section 2 – Report

2.1 Introduction and Background

- 2.1.1. This report introduces the Carers Strategy 2008 - 2011. This strategy updates the former Joint Carers Strategy 2005-2008. The strategy aims to support local carers who support vulnerable people in the community. It was developed through close working with carers and carer's service providers and other partners. The Carers Strategy development sub group, consisting of local authority officers, third sector providers and carers have lead the development of the strategy. Wide ranging consultation on the strategy has been held with carers and local partner.
- 2.1.2. The Strategy sets out the vision for supporting carers over the next three years and the outcomes. The Strategy identifies the main priorities for carers and areas for development during 2008-2011 and the outcomes they will help to achieve. The strategy also contains an annual action plan, a specific Mental Health Carers action plan and a Young Carers action plan.
- 2.1.3. The implementation of the strategy will be monitored regularly and the action plans reviewed through the Carers Partnership Group. The Mental Health Carers Action plan will be monitored through the Mental Health Carers Task Group and the Young Carers action plan will be monitored through the multi-agency Young Carers Group

2.2 National and Local Drivers

- 2.2.1 The carers strategy gives a list of key national and local policy drivers for the strategy. (Section 4, pages 11- 16)
- 2.2.2 The Carers Strategy reflects the national requirements for adult health and social care set out in the "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say" White Paper, (2006). The Carers Strategy reflects the vision and outcomes of the white paper.
- 2.2.3 The National Carer's Strategy: Carers at the heart of 21st-century families and communities (2008), is reflected in the carers strategy for Harrow. It sets out a shared vision for carers over the next 10 years.
- 2.2.4 The outcomes from the Every Child Matters (2004) are also incorporated in the carers strategy. Support for children with disabilities and their carers and young carers will contribute to achieving the five Every Child Matters outcomes.
- 2.2.5 Putting People First: A shared vision and commitment to transformation of Adult Social Care (2007) is reflected in the carers strategy through the promotion of independence, well- being, and dignity.
- 2.2.6 Local drivers include the Local Area Agreement, which ensure carers issues remain a corporate priority over the next three years. The indicator is to be monitored and reported to the Harrow Strategic Partnership. The indicator is :

‘Carers receiving needs assessments or reviews and a specific carer’s service or advice and information’.

2.2.7 Carers is also a flagship action in the Corporate Plan 2008- 2011: Improve the well being of adults and children and the care of those who most need our help

3.1 Provide 13,500 breaks for adults and children in 2008/09 an increase of 8% over the current year.

2.2.8 The carers strategy supports the draft corporate priorities for 2009/2010 to Improve support for vulnerable people.

2.2.9 The Adults and Housing Directorate have developed a Transformation Programme Plan ‘Your Future, Our Future’ to improve social care and housing services over the next three years. It includes the development and implementation of the carers strategy and recognises it as a key component to improving adult social care services.

2.3 Service Improvement

2.4.1 The carers strategy is aims to provide a framework for developing and maintaining good practice that supports carers with their caring role and to have a life outside of their caring role. It also supports people with health and well-being needs. The Strategy is a tool to ensure that within the resources available appropriate services are developed and provided to carers and people with health and well being needs.

2.4.2 The strategy also details how, in Harrow, we will aim to reflect current thinking of national and local government and other local strategies in the development and delivery of services for carers.

2.4.3 This strategy focuses on the development and commissioning of personalised services. These are services that support people and their carers in their own homes and communities. This strategy embraces the key aims of the wider personalisation agenda. This strategy also links closely and builds on the Adults and Older Adults Partnership Plan and the Children and Young People’s Plan.

2.4 Staffing Implications

2.4.1 The strategy is to be implemented within existing staffing capacity.

2.5 Consultation

2.5.1 The Carers strategy was developed in partnership with carers and service users and people and organisations working with carers, including Harrow Council, Harrow Primary Care Trust, Independent Sector organisations and voluntary groups.

2.5.2 A Consultation workshop was held with carers on 24th April 2007. Carers raised the issues they wanted to see addressed locally. These issues are reflected in the local strategic priorities. Carers have also been consulted through the Carers Action Group, carer’s week activities held during June 2008 and the Carer Reference Group. A

wide range of consultation was held with specific groups and the strategy consultation period ran from May – August 2008. The health and social care partnership groups, older peoples reference group, POP Panel and adults and children's service providers have been consulted on the development of the strategy. Scrutiny Challenge Panel was held on 4th June 2008 for members to engage with and comment on the development of the carers strategy.

2.5.3 Key issues raised by carers during consultation informed the strategy priorities. Carers told us they wanted:

- A good quality service for the person cared for
- Breaks from caring
- Freedom to have a life of their own
- Maintain their own health
- A say in service provision and service development
- Better information about carers' services
- Better communication with professionals
- Access to quality carers' needs assessments
- Financial support
- Support for young carers
- Sensitivity to cultural issues
- Flexible working and support for working carers
- More outreach and advocacy support

2.6 Equalities Impacts

2.6.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out on the Carers Strategy with stakeholder on 12th September 2008. It found no adverse impacts, but does propose actions to ensure the strategy is widely accessible to all parts of the community by ensuring it is made available in community languages and in accessible and other formats as required. Equalities issues were considered throughout the development of the strategy to mitigate any adverse impacts. Carers outreach workers support carers to ensure hard to reach and hidden group get access to support and services.

2.7 Legal comments

The EIA report has taken into account the statutory equalities duties.

2.8. Financial Implications

2.8.1 The Carer's grant, which covers both Adults and Children's services, will be added to Area Based grant from 2009-10, however, the majority of the funding will continue to be applied to Carers' services in the short to medium term.

2.8.2 Decisions on how to apply any spare capacity within the grant will be incorporated in the budget round for 2009-10 to 2011-12 in the context of the pressures on adults and housing budgets.

2.8.3 The allocation of grant funding will need to be considered in the context of the outcomes of the preventative service review, arrangements and links with other partnership funding and the development of Individual Budgets.

2.9 Performance Issues

2.9.1 The Carers Strategy is in line with our LAA performance targets and the targets set in the Adults Transformation Programme 'Your Future, Our Future'.

Specifically;

N135: Carers receiving needs assessment or review and a specific carer's service, or advice and information above average for Outer London Authorities by March 09. *We are on track to achieve our first year target of 57 per 1000 population by the end of 2008/9 and 62 per 1000 by the end 2010/11. These are ambitious targets when compared performance and targets of statistical neighbours.*

One off direct payments to carers, which are included in the strategy, will make a significant contribution to this indicator and will also contribute to our LAA target for self directed support and direct payments (NI130).

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Donna Edwards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 26 September 2008		
Name: Helen White	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 26 September 2008		

Section 4 – Performance Officer Clearance

Name:...David Harrington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Service Manager Performance Management
Date: 26 September 2008		

Section 5 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Jasvinder Kaur Perihar, Well being & Carers Strategy
Manager, Adults & Housing

Tel: Ext 2023 email: Jasvinder.perihar@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers:

1. Joint Carers strategy 2005-2008: Carers: the way forward.
2. Carers at the heart of 21st-century families and communities : A caring system on your side. A life of your own. (2008)