

Health and Wellbeing Board

Date of Meeting: 15 March 2016
Report of: Jacki Wilkes, Associate Director of Commissioning ECCG
Subject/Title: Caring for Carers: A Joint Strategy for Carers of All Aged in Cheshire East 2016 - 2018

1 Report Summary

- 1.1 Cheshire East Council (ECCCG) has worked in partnership with carers, Eastern Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group and South Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group to develop a new two year strategy for carers.
- 1.2 An evaluation of the previous strategy (2011-2015) shows that some progress has been made to improve the health and well-being of carers in Cheshire East.
- 1.3 A number of engagement events have been held over the past two years to understand the stated needs of carers and review opportunities to meet those needs.
- 1.4 The publication of the 2014 Care Act outlines specific changes to the offer of support for carers and the impact of these changes have been assessed and included in the strategy.
- 1.5 There are five priority areas outlined in the new strategy (informed by carers) and a delivery plan with details of actions, timescales and clear lines of both organisational and individual officer accountabilities is included for each area.
- 1.6 An outcomes framework, with measures of success has been developed alongside the implementation plan and will be used to monitor progress. This will report to the Health and Well Being Board via the Joint Commissioning Leadership Team.
- 1.7 An innovative approach to measurement of success is proposed in partnership with carers. This two year strategy will be monitored through traditional approaches such as surveys, activity, registers, Carers Reference group etc. It will also adopt an innovative approach to measurement of success through carers, representing a wide range of circumstances, sharing their stories. This will demonstrate how the strategy will improve their quality of life by regularly feeding back on the impact of the strategy during the implementation phase.

2 Recommendations

The Cheshire East Health and Well Being Board is asked to:

Agree the strategy for 2016-18 in that it aligns to the Caring Together, and Connecting Care vision and transformation agenda and as such is a key priority for Cheshire East Council, South Cheshire and Eastern Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Groups.

Note that the Strategy has been endorsed by Eastern Cheshire CCG but is yet to be endorsed by South Cheshire CCG. Approve the proposal to manage the implementation action plan and resource requirements via the partnership Executive Teams.

Endorse the proposal to monitor progress of delivering this strategy via the Joint Commissioning Leadership Team and report as required to the Health and Well Being Board.

3 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1. Health and Well Being Board partners have committed to '*ensure the health and wellbeing of carers to enable them to carry out their caring role*' This strategy describes how that will be achieved.
- 3.2. In order to begin work on this strategy, decisions will need to be made in a timely way. The executive teams meet regularly and can make decisions which may be required to keep plans on target.
- 3.3. Governance arrangements are required to ensure plans progress well and issues are identified and escalated where required.

4 Impact on Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

- 4.1. The mission statement 'Valuing Carers and Supporting their Health and wellbeing in Cheshire East' was developed in response to feedback received during the engagement events. Specifically the strategy aims to:
 - Recognise and value carers as partners with expert knowledge, experience and understanding
 - Capture the experience and ideas of carers to improve and develop service
 - Help carers to realise and release their potential including access to work and educational opportunities
 - Support a life outside of caring
 - Support carers to stay out of financial hardship

- Keep people in caring roles safe from harm
- Improve the health and well-being of those in a caring role
- Identifying and supporting young carers to ensure they learn, develop and thrive

5 Background and Options

- 5.1 The 2014 Care Act places a duty of care on health and social care to work in partnership to identify and support people in a caring role, and empowerment of carers in Eastern Cheshire is central to the Caring Together programme.
- 5.2 According to the most recent census data there are 12,453 people in Cheshire East caring for 20 hours per week or more, with a further 27,481 caring between 1 and 19 hours per week. Altogether that is almost 11% of the population of Cheshire East.
- 5.3 In Cheshire East the number of people caring for 50 hours or over has increased by nearly a third since 2001 to 8,014, with over 42% of them aged 65 or over.
- 5.4 In a recent survey on the impact of caring on the carer 1 in 8 respondents (12.7%) said that they do not do anything they value or enjoy with their time, with over a third of respondents said that sometimes they can't look after themselves well enough. In addition 14.9% of respondents said that they had little social contact with people and felt socially isolated.
- 5.5 In Cheshire East, 1,236 of the Carers who were caring for 20 hours or more per week (10%) reported that they were in bad or very bad health.
- 5.6 By 2037 Carers UK calculates that the number of carers in the UK will increase by 40%, which would equate to an estimated 56,000 carers in Cheshire East.
- 5.7 Following feedback from ECCCCG Governing Body, representatives from the CCGs and Council, working with the carers reference group have 're-profiled' the priority areas giving the strategy a clearer focus with Carers advising on what needs to happen to deliver a tangible difference.
- 5.8 Eastern Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group (ECCCCG) Governing Body received proposals for a Joint Commissioning Strategy at its April 2015 meeting but required further information on; benefits to carers, measurements of success, process for needs assessment with assurance that adequate capacity is available and clear arrangements for delivery.
- 5.9 Further engagement has taken place and priority areas re-profiled with assessment of need and respite now clearly identified as work streams.

5.10 The proposal presented here brings together the key strands of work described above which relate to carers of all ages, in a new strategy for 2016 - 18.

The five emerging priorities are:

- ✚ Respite and carer breaks
- ✚ Realising carer potential
- ✚ Information service
- ✚ Assessment of carer needs and crisis support
- ✚ Engagement and co-production

5.11 Each of these priorities will be supported by an outcomes framework to monitor and review progress, and measure success.

5.12 An implementation action plan has been developed which describes in relevant detail the timeline to achieve the outcomes required.

5.13 A new project manager post, funded from the three commissioning partners, has been established to drive through the delivery plan and promote effective engagement with people of all ages in caring roles. The post holder will have access to a small pooled budget for engagement.

Table 1: Financial plan from ECCCCG to support carers

ECCG Contribution	Cost
33.3% funding for carers post	£14,964
33.3% contribution to engagement budget	£2,000
Carer Breaks	£226,000
Total for ECCCCG	£242,964
CEC Contribution	Cost
CEC Early Intervention and Prevention Services to Carers	£372,489
CEC Generic services	£1,157,000
Carers Respite bed based services	£1,946,387.04
Carer Breaks	£426,000

Carers also receive support through the provision of services to the cared for.

6 Access to Information

For further information relating to this report contact:

Name	Jacki Wilkes
Designation	Associate Director of Commissioning
Telephone	01625 663473
Email	jackiwilkes@nhs.net