

Croydon Council

For General Release

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| REPORT TO: | ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES REVIEW PANEL 3 OCTOBER 2012 |
| AGENDA ITEM: | 7 |
| SUBJECT: | CARERS STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION CROYDON CARERS STRATEGY 2011-2016 |
| LEAD OFFICER: | HANNAH MILLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR ADULT SERVICES, HEALTH AND HOUSING (DASHH) PAUL GREENHALGH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILY AND LEARNERS (CFL) |
| CABINET MEMBER: | CLLR MARGARET MEAD, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES AND HEALTH CLLR TIM POLLARD, DEPUTY LEADER (COMMUNICATIONS) AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING |
| WARDS: | ALL |
| CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT: The Croydon carers strategy of 2011-16 (see appendix 1 to this report on the Council website http://intranet.croydon.net/dash/Carers/carers.asp) contributes to Croydon Council's vision of: An Enterprising City <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage carers to get involved with setting up social enterprises such as support and caring organisations• Work together with private, voluntary and community sectors to drive new schemes forward and ensure carers are included and their opportunities are maximized for the benefit of the community A Learning City <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Give children the best possible start in life through early intervention• Provide the help and support needed so young children, especially those who are vulnerable, are supported to maintain or improve their wellbeing, including physical, social and emotional development• Learning throughout life – infusing a culture of life long learning for all A Caring City <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Different neighbourhoods with a distinct identity and responsive mix of services and facilities that meet local needs | |

- Support carers to lead independent, healthy, productive lives, active and social lives
- Encourage high levels of community involvement and enable carers to become involved
- Empower and motivate carers to get involved in shaping what happens locally and manage their local public spaces and community facilities
- Give everyone including carers the opportunities to influence local decision-making
- Give vulnerable people support and opportunities to develop and contribute to society

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- The carers strategy 2011-16 and related budget will help avert a false economy. Carers are the backbone of the health and social care system and they need to be supported if they are to continue caring. Currently they save the Council and local health services £541 million a year.
- The related budgets, set out in section 5 of this report, show that sufficient funds exist to cover anticipated costs.

FORWARD PLAN KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO: This is not a key decision

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1. That the Adult Social Services Review Panel notes the progress made on new Croydon Carers Strategy 2011 -16: The next steps for carers in Croydon
The Croydon Carers Strategy 2011-16 can be viewed by following the link to strategy <http://intranet.croydon.net/dash/Carers/carers.asp>

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1. The Carers Strategy of 2011-2016 (the strategy) updates the previous strategy of 2008 -11 and is aligned with the Coalition Government's 2011 refresh of the National Carers Strategy, '*Recognised, valued and supported: next steps for the Carers Strategy*'. The Government's refresh recognises the value of preventative services which save the Council/health services from increased expenditure in the long term on the person cared for and the carer. Preventative services which save statutory services from further expenditure are especially important in the current financial climate.
- 2.2. The strategy has been the subject of consultation with all known stakeholders and their responses have been incorporated into it.
- 2.3. The strategy, amongst other things, is being used to implement commissioning plans for carers services which are preventative, personalized, cost effective and targeted to meet the carers' needs directly as opposed to funds being locked within providers' costs.

3. DEVELOPMENT OF THE CARERS STRATEGY

- 3.1. Local needs analysis together with local and national feedback in relation to carers' issues show that carers continue to have the same needs as highlighted in the previous strategy of 2008-11. They continue to have needs under the following headings listed in the new carers strategy 2011-16: carers' assessments; breaks and emergency respite; advice, information and advocacy; health, wellbeing and support; recognition and involvement and support to young carers. The strategy sets out recommendations under these headings, which seek to minimise the impact of caring.
- 3.2. A joint report by the Princess Royal Trust for Carers and ADASS (directors of adult social care) called, '*Supporting carers – early Interventions and better outcomes, May 2010*', highlighted that those who have no carer are more likely to be admitted to care homes. Carer-related reasons for admission to nursing or residential care are common, with carer stress the reason for admission in 38% of cases and family breakdown (including loss of the carer) the reason in a further 8%. A number of support, housing, financial and employment factors can contribute to the practical and emotional viability of caring roles and lower rates of admission to care homes - which can be highly expensive and costly.
- 3.3. The strategy has been developed jointly by DASHH ,CFL and the NHS and takes account of all relevant client groups. It has been circulated for consultation to a wide range of stakeholders including South West London NHS Croydon, carers and carers organisations within the Carers Partnership Group, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and commissioners. Comments received have been incorporated into the strategy.

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARERS STRATEGY

- 4.1 Implementation of the new strategy, which received Cabinet approval on the 10 of October 2011, has already begun. Key actions, towards implementation taken so far, are highlighted in the paragraphs below.
- 4.2. A range of preventative and early intervention carers' services have been commissioned from 1st July 2012 as part of the Carers Support Network Commissioning Programme 2012-15, using the hub and spoke service delivery model. Essentially, a partnership venture between the Council, voluntary sector and the Whitgift Foundation, this will see the hub delivering information and general carers services from a central point, with the spokes leading to, and linking in, with other specialist carers services. All approved providers are now part of this new model called Carers Support Network, Croydon.
- 4.3. The new Carers Support Network provision has put in place early intervention and preventative services such as access to information, advice, advocacy, support (support groups, peer networks, counseling - either 121 or by telephone), befriending and break services. Young carers over the age of 16 are seeing the benefits through increased provision in training for carers. They will also be able to access counselling services which together will go some way in making the transition easier from being young carers to becoming adult

- carers.
- 4.4. Development support is being provided to Network providers who have met via four facilitated workshops in order to have in place common practice, policies and procedures (such as referral arrangements, information sharing, service delivery planning, branding and initial assessment forms) and aligning monitoring systems to the Carers Support Network Commissioning Programme's outcomes framework. This is so that a one service delivery approach can be established.
 - 4.5. A building to house the carers hub has been identified by the Whitgift Foundation and is located on 24/26 George Street in Central Croydon, which has excellent transport links. The formalities relating to leasing this building is nearly completed. The building in total has 13 offices and spreads over three floors. The ground floor will be opened up as a reception, meeting space for carers and confidential meeting rooms. There is a training room which can facilitate up to 30 people. Negotiations are under way between the Whitgift Foundation and other Carers Support Network providers to rent this space.
 - 4.6. Good Safeguarding practice continues to feature strongly in the development of new carers services and will continue to influence service delivery. For example, the Council's safeguarding team is part of the Carers Partnership Group (CPG) which is made up of service providers, voluntary sector agencies and statutory bodies and ensures that there is continues awareness raising on good safeguarding policy, practice and availability for training.
 - 4.7. CFL has progressed further in implementing the carers' strategy by setting up the young carers working made up of officers from School Improvement, Integrated Youth Service, Children in Need, Children with Disabilities and the Strategic Carers Commissioner. The working group adopts the *ADASS/ADCS model of working together* protocol. The protocol suggests co-coordinated and collaborative working and approaches.
 - 4.8. CFL is making headway in terms of integrating young carers services, which are commissioned, into the wider youth offer in Croydon and this will assist in tracking the progress of young carers in Croydon's schools via primary and secondary Schools Improvement Officers. The young carers' service manager has now a base at the Turnaround Centre once a week, which is helping to raise awareness of young carers' issues. In addition to the online carers awareness programme recently commissioned by the Council which has been opened out to voluntary sector staff as well as volunteers, a programme of young carers awareness raising sessions have been planned throughout CFL.
 - 4.9. A workshop is being planned for October 2012 to consider further the white paper, published on 11 July 2012, 'Caring for our future: reforming care and support'. Broadly, the paper extends the rights of carers. This will inform the further development of carers services. DASHH, through care management practice, has arranged a separate workshop to review the carers' assessment process and how it could better fit in with new systems, requirements, processes and carer feedback.
 - 4.10. In terms of reablement, the Reablement Board's investment to carers services resulted in 350 breaks for carers as at June 2012.

- 4.11. The carers' strategy has ensured joined-up working in other new areas of development such as Croydon Dementia Strategy and is set to influence the re-commissioning of preventative and early intervention services for older people, which too, will use the hub and spoke service delivery approach to the provision of general advice and support services.
- 4.12 The CPG (see section 4.6) normally meets four times a year. In this financial year (April 2012 to March 2013), the CPG has met twice a year with its partners. The CPG is currently reviewing its membership and as part of this, the CPG is now linked up with the Croydon's new Adult Social Service User Panel. The CPG has ensured carers' issues have been highlighted in, amongst other things, welfare benefits changes, safeguarding, housing allocations policy, self directed support, reablement and with the Health and Wellbeing Board, representatives of the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board, Shadow HealthWatch and Patient and User Experience officer at Mayday. The CPG also had an input in terms of the development of new strategies such as Croydon's Dementia Strategy and Housing Strategy.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 The process of updating the strategy and hence the strategy's action plan began in December 2010. This has been through engagement with relevant stakeholders listed below and whose views largely shaped the strategy. Engagement was by organising and attending relevant consultation meetings as well as receiving feedback from carers directly and indirectly from service providers:

- The Carers Partnership Group
- Carers
- Care management team – health and social care
- Commissioners – health and social care
- Equalities Minority Communities Advisory Group (EQUA Group)
- Departmental Management Teams
- Corporate Management Team
- GP Consortia
- Service providers from voluntary sector and statutory sector

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Revenue and Capital consequences of report recommendations

| | Current year | Medium Term Financial Strategy – 3 year forecast | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Revenue Budget available | 585,000 | 523,000 | 523,000 ¹ | 523,000 ² |
| Expenditure | 585,000 | 523,000 | 523,000* | 523,000 |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Effect of decision from report | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Remaining budget | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |

- ¹This assumes no further reductions and no inflationary growth
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Please note the following:

- 6.1.a.** The above budgets are based on 2011/12 expenditure.
- 6.1.b.** the budget for preventative services is currently £585,000
- 6.1.c.** the 10% reduction for 2012/13 is the agreed sum for recommissioning services in advance of final budget agreements by Cabinet.

6.2. The effect of the decision

Implementation of the strategy will enable the council to meet its duty to assist carers to carry on caring and to prevent them from ill health and hence dependency on statutory services, will and commit expenditure of £523,000 in each of 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15.

6.3. Risks

This is a demand-led service and officers will ensure adherence to criteria for eligibility of services and will monitor expenditure on a monthly basis. The service commissioned through this strategy will seek to contain the growth in demand in particular by changing the way the funding is committed.

6.4. Options

Funding is through the existing budgets. There are no alternative funding streams available. No other options are therefore under consideration.

6.5. Future savings/efficiencies

Savings and efficiencies have already been achieved in 2010/11. Further savings of 10% have been agreed.

(Approved by: Paul Heynes, Head of Finance, DASH on behalf of the Director of Finance)

7. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

- 7.1. The Council Solicitor comments that as referred to above, there are a number of statutory duties in relation to carers which this strategy will support delivery of. These include:-
- 7.2. The Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995 - under the Act carers providing regular and substantial care have the right to request an assessment of their needs as carers and that assessment has to be taken into account

when planning services for the person in need of care.

- 7.3. The Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000 – this Act reinforces carers' rights to request an assessment of their own needs, and be provided directly with services, including where the cared for has refused a community care assessment or services as a result of an assessment.
- 7.4. Community Care (Delayed Discharges) Act 2003 (England) – this gives a carer who requests an assessment, a right to be assessed and have any necessary services provided, before the patient leaves hospital.
- 7.5. The Carers (Equal Opportunities Act) 2004 – places a duty on local authorities to inform carers of their right to a carers assessment, which must take account of whether the carer works, is in education, training or is involved in any leisure activity or would like the opportunity to be. Under the Act, local authorities also have the power to request assistance from other statutory bodies in planning services for carers.
- 7.6. The Mental Health Act 1983 (as amended by the Mental Health Act 1997) gives carers (if they are the nearest relative) of people with a mental health problem the right to ask for an assessment of the person they are caring for.
- 7.7. In respect of the Council's public sector equalities duty and when considering the proposals in this report, Cabinet must have 'due regard' to the protected characteristics and the specific needs of those within these groups that may arise. Insofar as this decision may affect numbers of people, many of whom have one or more of the protected characteristics, the 'due regard' necessary is very high. Where this report and the EqIA identify an adverse impact, consideration must be given to measures to avoid that impact before fixing on a particular solution.

(Approved by: Gabriel MacGregor, Head of Corporate Law on behalf of the Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer)

8. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

The carers support contract will be coming to an end in March 2012 and the services within it are planned to be re-commissioned. This may invoke Regulation 3(1)(b) TUPE. However, the transfer of staff will be from the existing to the new provider (should the existing provider not be successful) and there is no impact on council employees or on the Local Government Pension Scheme other than the compliance with and facilitation of the process.

Approved by: Michael Pichamuthu, HR Business Partner DASHH on behalf of Pam Parkes, Director of Workforce, Equalities and Community Resources)

9. EQUALITIES IMPACT

An equalities impact assessment has been completed as part of the development of the strategy and hence action plan. Carers are protected under the Equality Act 2010

by association to the people they care for and carers themselves can be sick, disabled or frail. Officers are satisfied that the implementation of the strategy supported by a reasonable level of budget, will not have any adverse impacts on protected groups under 2010 Act. Officers are also satisfied that the carers strategy 2011-16 and related actions identified in the EIA, if supported by a reasonable level of budget, will have a positive impact on carers and the people they care for.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

As part of the planned re-commissioning process which will be based on the strategy, all potential providers will be asked to send in a copy of their environmental policy. This will be assessed as part of the evaluation process of all bids.

Approved by Muhammad Ali, on behalf of Bob Fiddik, Head of Sustainable Development Service.

11. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

There are no crime and disorder reduction impacts arising from the 2011-2012 strategy.

12. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

- 12.1. Adoption of the strategy will support the Council in its delivery of the Convention Rights and particularly, insofar as the Strategy will help ensure the needs of carers and the cared for are met in their own homes and environments, Article 8 – the right to respect for private and family life.

CONTACT OFFICERS: Trevor Mosses, Head of Commissioning, Older People, Long Term Conditions and End of Life Care, extension 62869/Harsha Ganatra, Carers Commissioning Manager, extension 62470

Appendix 1 – the Carers Strategy 2011-2016
<http://intranet.croydon.net/dash/Carers/carers.asp>