

INDIVIDUALS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE, 24 JANUARY 2017

Subject Heading:

Carers – final draft Havering Carers Strategy 2017-2019

CMT Lead:

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Policy context:

Care Act compliance and best practice

SUMMARY

The Havering Council and the Havering Clinical Commissioning Group continue to work with key partners to develop support for carers.

The Havering Carers Forum and the Havering carers consultation group facilitated by Havering Council's Joint Commissioning Unit and attended by Adult Social Care frontline workers, provides carers and their relatives/friends across client groups, with opportunities to meet with Adult Social Care commissioners, to influence the design and commissioning of Adult Social Care services in Havering.

Carer membership is also part of the Havering Carers Partnership Board which has overseen development of the final draft Joint Havering Carers Strategy. The Carers Partnership Board is regularly attended by Havering Carers.

In January 2017, the final draft Joint Havering Carers Strategy 2017 to 2019 will be presented to Cabinet and their approval will be sought to launch it as the final Strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended Overview & Scrutiny Individuals Sub-Committee members note the report and Strategy.

REPORT DETAIL

Background and Policy Context

According to the 2011 Census, 25,214 people, 11% of Havering's residents provide unpaid care, an increase from 23,253 in 2001.

Carers undertake a significant amount of support to adults with social care needs. It is widely recognized that supporting carers to continue in their caring role reduces the cost of support for those they care for which would otherwise fall on health and social care services saving up to £119 billion per year nationally.

The role of carers has been increasingly recognised in legislation. The Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995 established the right of carers who provided substantial care on a regular basis to request an assessment of their ability to care. The Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004, which came into effect in April 2005, built on legislation by placing a duty on Councils to inform carers of their right to request an assessment and to take into account their wishes regarding employment, leisure and life-long learning.

The Care Act 2014, much of which came into effect from 1st April 2015, replaces all previous legislation relating to adult social care including carers. It also includes new rights for carers and how local authorities support them. Whilst previous legislation states carers must be providing "a substantial amount of care on a regular basis" in order to qualify for an assessment, the Care Act gives local authorities a responsibility to assess a carer's needs for support, where the carer appears to have such needs.

The Joint Havering Carers Strategy 2017 to 2019, which is due to go to Cabinet on 18th January 2017 has been developed by carers, jointly with Havering Council and the Havering Clinical Commissioning Group and sets out our plans for the next three years.

The 8 outcomes identified by local carers that the final draft Strategy proposes to focus on are:

1. Carers have access to information, advice and support;
2. Carers feel less alone;

3. Carers balance the caring role and have a life outside of caring responsibilities;
4. Carers stay healthy;
5. Carers get enough sleep;
6. Carers manage stress and anxiety levels;
7. Carers have the skills, tools and confidence to carry out caring responsibilities;
8. Carers feel reassured about the health and well-being of the person(s) cared for, when carers are not with them.

Achievement of the above outcomes would support Havering carers to continue in their caring role and have a life of their own alongside their caring role, and ensure that Havering Council and partners are compliant with and promoting the principles of the Care Act.

The strategy does focus on Carers of adults 18+, however we do recognise young carers in the strategy and commit to working with relevant partners to identify and provide awareness of support to young people who have caring responsibilities, parents who are caring for children aged under 18, and young adults caring, and to support with the transition process into adulthood.

Safeguarding is also a key area in the Care Act 2014 and a priority for Havering Council and the Havering Clinical Commissioning Group. Our main emphasis is around making safeguarding personal and this is highlighted in the Strategy.

We are committed to raising awareness of how people who have any concerns about safeguarding issues or abuse, know how to speak to someone in confidence and/or raise an alert.

Budget and Demand

As stated above, according to the 2011 Census, 25,214 people, 11% of Havering's residents provide unpaid care, an increase from 23,253 in 2001. People take on caring responsibilities every day and it is recognised nationally that the number of people with caring responsibilities is set to rise, with everyone having caring responsibilities at some point in their lives. Havering has one of the highest carer populations in London.

Current and future spend on carers includes:

- Carers personal budgets;
- Carers events provided by commissioned providers and by Havering Joint Commissioning Unit;
- Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) commissioned services supporting carers including carers support groups;
- London Borough of Havering officer time for commissioning and contract monitoring carers support;

- Social care assessors undertaking joint assessments and separate carers assessments;
- Statutory advocacy provision for clients who are carers;
- Respite, as part of the person(s) cared for care plan;
- Allocations for respite/carers outcomes within client (service user) direct payments.

Managing Demand and Budget

Financial investment for carers support ensures that Havering meets its' statutory obligations and is also linked with the demand management strategy, in that if carers are supported to continue in their caring roles and to maintain or improve their wellbeing, they are able to continue to provide care and support for Havering clients who may otherwise be eligible for statutory care and support from Adult Social Care.

Under the Care Act we also have statutory duties to provide eligible carers with needs for support in their own right.

Stakeholder Engagement

Carers of Havering residents have informed the final Joint Havering Carers Strategy through a period of consultation and engagement, spanning over a year, including through:

- Carers consultation events
- Carer workshops with Adult Social Care staff
- Carers and the Care Act presentations to carers and discussions thereafter
- Carer workshops with independent facilitators
- Meetings with Community and Voluntary partners funded by Havering Council and the Havering Clinical Commissioning Group
- Carers individually and group discussions
- Dedicated carers focus groups and events for people caring for people with specific needs
- Survey of Adult Carers in England 2014-15 and the responses from carers of Havering residents
- Havering Carers survey 2015 in relation to GP support for carers
- Havering Carers Week event and 'the Big Idea'
- Quarterly Havering Carers Forum meetings
- Dedicated work with an independent external agency, FutureGov, who engaged directly with carers around their experiences and with providers of services for carers.

A further 3 month consultation was undertaken from June 2016 to September 2016, with a range of stakeholders including carers of Havering residents, voluntary and community sector partners and public forums.

A detailed action plan has been developed following consultation around what carers themselves identified as priorities.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

The spend on carers ensures Havering meets its statutory obligations and is also linked with the Council's Demand Management Strategy, in that if carers are supported to continue in their caring roles and to maintain or improve their wellbeing, they are able to continue to provide care and support for Havering clients who may otherwise be eligible for statutory care and support from Adult Social Care. We are also seeking to prevent the carers' own need for care and support, to ensure that carers are themselves supported to access training, work and recreation opportunities and able to manage their caring responsibilities with no or minimal impact on their health and wellbeing.

Legal implications and risks:

Local authorities have additional duties for carers under the Care Act 2014 as carers have the same legal rights as those for whom they care; the Care Act puts carers on an equal legal footing:

- Local authorities have a duty to assess carers who appear to have eligible needs;
- Local authorities must consider a carer's overall wellbeing, which includes physical, mental and emotional well-being, participation in work, education and training, and social and economic well-being;
- Carers who meet eligibility criteria will have a right to support to meet their eligible needs;
- Carers should be supported to retain and gain employment;
- Carers will have new rights to be consulted on the cared for person;
- Local authorities will have a duty to provide information and advice relating to training, coping with routing caring responsibilities, managing in the workplace, knowing where to go for local support and services, benefits and finance, and information on assistive technology.

In conjunction with the above, adults-focused Care Act, sections 96 and 97 of the Children and Families Act 2014 seeks to make sure young and parent carers get the support they need. Under this Act, local authorities are expected to try and identify young carers so they can be offered support and both adult and children's social services will need to work together on helping young carers.

Young people turning 18 and their carers may also become entitled to adult social care services; there is therefore cross over between the two acts in respect of the provision of support to young people between 18 and 25. The needs of carers, reflective of the changed circumstances of the young person as they move towards adulthood, should also be considered as part of transition planning.

The final draft Strategy is aligned to statutory requirements.

Human Resources implications and risks:

The final draft Joint Havering Carers Strategy does not give rise to any identifiable Human Resources risks or implications that would affect either the Council or its workforce.

Equalities implications and risks

The outcomes stated in the final draft Strategy will enable positive outcomes for those persons being cared for and for current or potential carers.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken alongside the final draft Strategy which sets out the positive impacts across the protected characteristics.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Final draft Joint Havering Carers Strategy 2017-2019.

Care Act Statutory Guidance.

Department of Health Care and support statutory guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance>

Carers UK State of Caring 2016 report: <http://www.carersuk.org/stateofcaring>