
Meeting: Social Care Health and Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 15th October 2009

Subject: Central Bedfordshire Council and NHS Bedfordshire Joint Delivery and Spending Plan for Carers

Report of: Director of Social Care, Health & Housing

Contact Officer: James Robinson-Morley, Lead Commissioner (Carers & Service User Engagement)

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- 1. that the Social Care Health and Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee is requested to consider the report and:**
 - (a) note the contents of the report**
 - (b) Approves the actions and budget as detailed in Appendix B of this report, i.e. 'Central Bedfordshire Council and NHS Bedfordshire Action Plan for Implementing the National Carers Strategy'**
 - (c) Notes that there is £350,000 funding within NHS Bedfordshire that people caring for someone within Central Bedfordshire can access by referral to Carers in Bedfordshire. NHS Bedfordshire is accountable to the Strategic Health Authority for how this money is spent**

Reason for Recommendation(s): *Central Bedfordshire Council is required to confirm to the Department of Health that*

- Central Bedfordshire Council and NHS Bedfordshire are aware of the new carers funding within Primary Care Trusts*
- This money has been identified to support carers by NHS Bedfordshire*
- A joint delivery and spending plan between Central Bedfordshire Council and NHS Bedfordshire has been signed off for 2009-10*

To enable Central Bedfordshire Council and NHS Bedfordshire to comply with the Department of Health requirement to publish the joint plan

The National Strategy for Carers (June 2008)

1. The National Strategy includes a commitment from the Department of Health that £150 million will be available through Primary Care Trusts to support the provision of additional breaks for carers
 - a) £50 million in 2009-10
 - b) £100 million in 2010-11
2. The funding is non-ring fenced.
3. The NHS Operating Framework states the following requirements in Chapter 2
 - a) Primary Care Trusts should work with their local authority partners to publish joint plans on how their combined funding will support breaks for carers, including short breaks, in a personalised way
 - b) The plans will be part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
 - c) These plans will be published following a local consultation with relevant parties, including the third sector and carers themselves
4. The National Strategy also makes available a Carers Grant paid to Local Authorities as part of the Area Based Grant
 - a) The national value of the Carers Grant is £240 million in 2009-10
5. The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services is undertaking a programme of work to ensure the high priority of the carers agenda and transparency of funding at a local level. Measures include the requirement for Local Authorities and Primary Care Trusts to develop and publish joint plans.

Improving the Quality of Life of all carers in Central Bedfordshire

6. NHS Bedfordshire received £350,000 from the Strategic Health Authority to support carers across Bedfordshire in 2009-10.
7. Central Bedfordshire Council received a Carers Grant of £837,00 in 2009-10 as part of the Area Based Grant of which 20% (£167,000 goes to Children's Services)
8. The Strategic Health Authority required NHS Bedfordshire to produce a plan and regular reports in order to receive the £350,000
9. NHS Bedfordshire produced a draft plan, following consultation via the Bedfordshire Carers Exchange (a network of local Third Sector Carers Organisations) in February 2009
10. Central Bedfordshire Council held a workshop on 13th July 2009 with carers, NHS Bedfordshire, Bedford Borough Council and Third Sector partners to
 - a) Receive a review of services for, and needs of, carers in Bedfordshire by Carers UK

- b) Seek feedback from Third Sector partners and carers on the draft NHS Bedfordshire plan
 - c) Enable carers and Third Sector Partners to identify the key priorities for Central Bedfordshire carers
11. The feedback from the 13th July has been drawn together into the joint Central Bedfordshire Council and NHS Bedfordshire Action Plan for Implementing the National Carers Strategy and can be found in Appendix B.
12. More detailed targets and costings for the plan at Appendix B will be further developed and then monitored by the Healthy Communities and Older Peoples Partnership Board. The Social Care, Health and Housing Directorate has identified support to carers as a key priority and, in addition to the Local Strategic Partnership providing oversight of the joint working, will continue to report to Executive and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
13. NHS Bedfordshire is using the carers funding available to them to deliver a 1 year pilot through Carers in Bedfordshire (Central Bedfordshire's Princess Royal Trust Carers Centre with bases in Bedford, Biggleswade and satellite sessions in Ampthill, Shefford, Leighton Buzzard, Houghton Regis and Dunstable). The pilot includes
- a) A £100,000 budget for more flexible breaks for carers offering services at an earlier stage to carers who may not be eligible for a service through the Local Authority's Fair Access to Care criteria
 - b) Targeted support to identify carers from Black and Minority Ethnic communities
 - c) Increased support for Young Carers
 - d) More funding and capacity to enable carers to effectively manage their own health, well-being, work and learning
14. While the Strategic Health Authority require NHS Bedfordshire to report directly to them on delivery and spend of their £350,000, NHS Bedfordshire is committed to the partnership working framework provided through the Healthy Communities and Older Peoples Partnership Board to develop and oversee improvement of the joint approach to carers.
15. No specific amount of the £350,000 NHS funding has been allocated directly to residents in Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough. However, through well developed proposals by Central Bedfordshire Council and robust representation of local needs, the Council intends to maximise the proportion available to carers within Central Bedfordshire
16. The 1 year pilot enables NHS Bedfordshire to learn from the new experience of directly supporting carers and developing responses to the Putting People First – Transformation through Personalisation agenda. This will enable Central Bedfordshire Council and NHS Bedfordshire to explore more formal options for partnership working in 2010-11

Conclusion and Next Steps

17. Carers within Central Bedfordshire told us that they want more choice in the range of services available to them.

Increasing the range and flexibility of carers' breaks and support is also part of the recovery and improvement journey for Adult Social Care and will contribute to the transformation journey for Central Bedfordshire Council's customers.

18. The NHS funding will allow carers who do not care for someone meeting Central Bedfordshire's Fair Access to Care Criteria to access breaks and support at an earlier stage. This may prevent their health and well-being deteriorating to the point where they need support from Central Bedfordshire Council's Carers Grant
19. The joint Central Bedfordshire Council and NHS Bedfordshire plan is an opportunity to strengthen partnership working and to improve the quality of life of more carers within Central Bedfordshire
20. The next step is for the Executive to approve the joint plan and for Central Bedfordshire Council and NHS Bedfordshire to publish the plan found at Appendix B

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

Supporting and caring for an ageing population

Promoting healthier lifestyles

Increasing support for Carers (Social Care, Health & Housing Directorate Plan)

Financial:

The carer's grant is a revenue grant and is funded from Area Based Grant (ABG). The total grant awarded for this is £837k of which 20% of this is allocated to Children's Services and a budget provision for this exists in both Adult Social Care and Children's Services revenue budget.

Should NHS Bedfordshire not spend the £350,000 to support carers, there will be no direct cost implications to Central Bedfordshire Council; however, this would be detrimental to the support available for carers in Central Bedfordshire.

The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services is undertaking a programme of work to ensure the high priority of the carers agenda and transparency of funding at a local level.

Please also see Points 6, 7, 12, 14 and 15 in the main body of the report

Legal:

See Appendix A, Points 8-10

Risk Management:

Work to ensure the high priority of the carers agenda and transparency of funding at a local level is overseen by the Care Quality Commission, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, and the Local Strategic Partnership through the Healthy Communities and Older People Partnership Board.

Please also see Point 5 in the main body of this report.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

No direct implications.

Equalities/Human Rights:

Supporting Carer's is an important element of the Council's approach to tackling inequality. The Council has a duty to tackle inequality and to promote race, gender and disability equality. Work to support Carers impacts positively on these legal duties in a number of ways:

- Many Carers experience poverty and financial hardship which means that they struggle to afford the basic costs of living, are unable to study or work without their benefits being cut-off or face the removal of their allowance when they start to claim their pension. Accessing funding opportunities to support Carers is therefore crucial.

- The majority of Carers are women. Research demonstrates that women can regularly face penalties because they take time out of the labour market to care for family members or work part-time or flexibly in order to balance caring with work responsibilities. Supporting women and families who are caring for children and elderly relatives has been identified as a key gender equality priority
- Recent case law has established that the carers of disabled people are also covered by disability legislation and their needs should be proactively considered and addressed.
- National research indicates that adults and older people from black and minority ethnic communities are less likely to be provided with social services following an assessment and it is therefore important for them to be identified as a target group in relation to the Joint Delivery and Spending Plan
- Young Carers have been identified by Department for Children Schools and Families and Central Bedfordshire Council as a vulnerable group also requiring targeted support.

Community Safety:

The National Strategy for Carers is to put ‘carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities’. The Central Bedfordshire Council and NHS Bedfordshire Action Plan for implementing the National Carers Strategy (Appendix B) sets how carers and families within Central Bedfordshire will receive support to play as full a role as possible within local communities. This contributes to a sense of community participation and cohesion.

Sustainability:

No direct implications

Appendices:

Appendix A – Background information on defining carers, prevalence of caring and the legal framework

Appendix B - Central Bedfordshire Council and NHS Bedfordshire Action Plan for implementing the National Carers Strategy

Background Papers (open to public inspection):

None