

Health and Wellbeing Board 9th February 2017

SHROPSHIRE ALL AGE CARERS STRATEGY

Responsible Officer Val Cross, Health and Wellbeing Officer
Email: val.cross@shropshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01743 253994

1. Summary

A new All-Age Carers Strategy and Action Plan for Shropshire has been written for the period 2016-2021. The five priorities have been identified through consultation and surveys with carers, local and national best practice and a local multi-agency working group. These priorities focus around the overarching aim, which is:

“Carers are supported to remain emotionally, mentally and physically well and feeling safe”

An Action Plan to meet the needs of these priorities has been produced, and leads for each area have been identified. Work is now underway to ensure that firm outcomes will be achieved.

2. Recommendations

That the Board approve the strategy, or approve with amendments.

REPORT

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The 2011 census shows us that there are around 34,000 carers in Shropshire. Of these it is estimated that there around 650 young carers, and approximately 1600 children and young people who have been identified as having a significant level of special educational need and as such are likely to be receiving a high level of support from family carers.

However, we know that there are many ‘hidden’ carers. These carers may feel that they are simply carrying out ordinary responsibilities as part of a family, be caring for an adult child with learning disabilities as part of being a parent or be caring for someone with stigmatised conditions such as drugs and alcohol and be reluctant to make their needs known.¹

1.2 A new carers strategy has been produced for Shropshire, which now covers all ages including young carer and young adult carers. This has been developed by using and collecting information from local and national sources. These include; national guidance, data and legislation, statistical data about Shropshire carers and the

¹ <http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/guides/guide09/section1/hidden.asp>

people they care for, findings from the Shropshire carers survey which was carried out in June/July 2016, information from Carer Partnership meetings and consultation with carers of all ages.

- 1.3 The definition of a carer in this strategy is:
“Someone of any age who provides unpaid care for another person (of any age) who may be ill, frail, disabled, have poor mental health or addiction problems, meaning they are unable to manage without this care.”

2.0 Strategy priorities

- 2.1 The key driver for this strategy has come from what carers in Shropshire have told us they need and has led to five key priority areas, which are as follows:

- 2.2 The five priorities are:

1. Carers are listened to, valued and respected.
2. Carers are enabled to have time for themselves.
3. Carers can access timely, to up to date information and advice working with education providers to promote information for young carers, young adult carers and parent carers.
4. Carers are enabled to plan for the future.
5. Carers are able to fulfil their educational, training or employment potential.

- 2.3 During the development of the Strategy, attempts have been made to ensure that the language is clear and applies to carers of any age. However, as this is the first All-age Carers Strategy for Shropshire, specific actions are being developed for specific groups (including young carers and parent carers) as it is recognised that the needs of some groups will be quite different than the needs of other groups of carers. The whole Strategy document can be found in Appendix A.

3.0 Action Plan

- 3.1 Developing and implementing the Action Plan is now a key priority. This involves partnership working with carers, People 2 People, Carers Trust4All, PACC, Shropshire CCG, Children’s Services, Adult Social Care, Telford and Wrekin Council and other stakeholders.
- 3.2 The Carers Strategy Working Group has identified named leads for 4 out of 5 of the strategy priorities. These individuals are from the Health and Wellbeing Team, Adult Social Care and Shropshire CCG. The current gap is a lead for Priority 4, which is ‘Carers are enabled to plan for the future’. As can be seen in the Action Plan, (Appendix B) this focusses on embedding planning for the future as a part of all-age carer health and other assessment discussions. It is hoped that a representative from Children’s Services will be able to take this priority forward, once the new Head of Early Help, Partnerships & Commissioning, Francean Doyle, is in post in February 2017.
- 3.3 The Action Plan is a ‘live’ document, which has been developed by the Carers Strategy Working Group. It focusses on action needed to meet the identified five priorities, and to ensure that firm outcomes will be achieved.

3.4 The leads will now take actions forward in their area, as detailed on the Action Plan, and bi-monthly leads meetings have been planned. These meetings will allow any successes and challenges to be shared including identifying any crossover work.

3.5 A record of progress will be added to the Action Plan by the Health and Wellbeing Officer.

4.0 Collecting carer's voices

4.1 Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin are part of the NHS England Carer Voice pilot, which is collecting the views of all carers to inform national strategies. Joint working has been taking place to collect the views of young carers and young adult carers to inform local strategies and action Plans.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 Implementation of the new Strategy and Action Plan should contribute towards positive outcomes for carers of all ages.

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

(NB This will include the following: Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, Environmental consequences and other Consultation)

There are no Human Rights, Environmental consequences, Community or Equality issues with this Strategy and Action Plan. Indeed, it aims to help improve the visibility and needs of carers in the communities they live in.

Risk Assessment has identified potential threats as;

1. *Losing engagement of key stakeholders.* This risk will be reduced by; communicating with partners regularly via email, sharing findings and information, holding regular meetings (face to face), holding a stakeholder event and inviting a wide range of partners, requesting partner involvement in designing the interventions, legitimise interventions and ideas through evidence, including national best practice as well as locally collected ethnographic data and include carers and primary care providers as key partners.
2. *Insufficient funding to implement effective Strategy* This risk will be reduced by potential funding from Better Care Fund and Social Care. Carers Trust 4 all are already contracted to supply and deliver services. Good communication with partners to report on progress of strategy, funding required and potential shortfalls will take place.
3. *Staffing issues impacting on implementation of strategy.* This risk will be reduced by communicating with providers and partners such as; Carers Trust 4 all, Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care and School Nursing etc. to anticipate staffing issues which may have an impact.

4. Financial Implications

Financial constraints across the whole system has been kept in mind when formulating the Action Plan, and the outcomes focus is more on changing ways of working, reviewing policies and pathways and making information available. This will involve staff time.

The Action Plan is at the early stage of implementation; hence, specific financial implications are unknown at present and would be identified and met through the Better Care Fund.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Cllr. Lee Chapman

Local Member

Appendices

Appendix A Shropshire All-Age Carers Strategy 2016-2021

Appendix B Action Plan