

Professional Awareness Bulletin – June 2011

WELCOME to the first edition of what we intend to be a concise, relevant bulletin containing national and local updates, news items of note and links for all things 'carer'. As I'm sure many of you are aware this week is Carers Week and we are delighted to be launching this new bulletin for professionals.

The bulletin contains lots of information and we have only included a snippet on each with a link for you to follow up if it particularly interests you. Any queries, difficulties or suggestions for future editions (including a catchy title!) please contact Julie at Carers' Resource on jrainer@carersresource.org or by calling 01274 449660.

We also regularly produce a newsletter for carers and professionals called 'Choices'. If you would like to receive a copy of this please let us know by contacting Rachel Waddington on rwaddington@carersresource.org

Introduction

A carer is someone who spends a significant proportion of their time providing unpaid support to a family member, partner or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or substance misuse problems.

Anyone can become a carer. Carers come from all walks of life, all cultures, and can be of any age. Many feel they are doing what anyone else would do in the same situation; looking after a parent, a child, a best friend and just getting on with it.

As a professional working with the public we know you will come across carers. For some this will be frequent and a major part of your role, for others it may be something you haven't ever really thought about; but we want you to feel empowered to help, guide and refer carers, when you do meet them, into the right services and understand the relevant changes, legislation and policies affecting them.

We are trying to create a network of Carers' Champions to help us raise awareness of carers' issues in Bradford and we would welcome anyone who wishes to join – please see the section 'Carers' Champions' to find out more.

Carers in Bradford

Carers' Partnership Arrangements for Bradford

New Carers' Partnership arrangements for Bradford have included the setting up of:

- a multi agency Partnership Group which met for the first time in March 2011 and is jointly co-chaired by Ali-Jan Haider and Guy Van Dichele;
- a Carers' Reference Group which provides an opportunity for carers to be involved in, and influence how, services are developed and delivered in Bradford;
- a Carers' Provider Forum which brings together anyone providing a service to carers to ensure that there is early engagement with providers in developing strategies, innovative ways of working and avoiding duplication.

These partnership arrangements will lead to better quality services, carers voices being heard and outcomes that are important to carers.

For more details about any of the three groups please contact Ian Brooke-Mawson, Joint Carers Commissioning Manager on 01274 437958 or email

ian.brooke-mawson@bradford.gov.uk

Caring Matters – Think Carer: A Joint Carers' Strategy for the Bradford District

Caring Matters – Think Carer is a joint Bradford Council and NHS Bradford and Airedale strategy which aims to recognise and value carers in the Bradford District as being fundamental to strong families and stable communities. It will also enable them to have positive opportunities to live healthy and fulfilling lives. This new strategy defines four priorities based on the 2010 refresh of the national Carers Strategy:

- Identifying and recognising the contribution of carers
- Enabling carers to fulfil their potential
- Personalised support for carers
- Supporting carers to be healthy

A key role for the Carers' Partnership Group is to oversee the implementation, monitoring and review of this strategy. For more information, please contact Ian Brooke-Mawson Joint Carers Commissioning Manager on 01274 437958 or email ian.brooke-mawson@bradford.gov.uk

NEW – Carers' Champion Network

A Carers' Champion is someone who does 'THINK CARER'. This means that they promote best practice within their own organisation by:

- Raising awareness of carers and carers' needs within their own organisation
- Keeping up to date with national and local carer developments
- Looking for opportunities to help their own organisation improve the carer's experience
- Working in partnership with other organisations to improve the carer's experience

If this sounds like your role, or one you would like to have, we want to hear from you. We want to develop a virtual network of Carers' Champions across all sectors and organisations in Bradford. In addition to keeping you up to date with national and local developments, we will also provide opportunities for networking, sharing best practice and improving the experience of carers using services.

To register as a Carers' Champion please send the following details (name/e-mail/organisation etc) to Anna Jackson, ajackson@carersresource.org or phone 01756 700888

National Issues

Policies and Papers galore!

The coalition Government has, as I'm sure you've noticed, been very busy producing white papers, policies, bills and strategies. From a 'refreshed' National Carers Strategy, Vision on Adult Social Care and Public Health, Mental Health and NHS bills and papers the bedtime reading list grows by the hour. However, below are details of the key documents which affect carers with a brief summary and a link to where you can find it in full if you want to know more.

Adult Social Care – Law Commission Report

London: Law Commission, 2011

Following three years research The Law Commission has proposed many changes to carers' rights, adult safeguarding and the extension of direct payments to residential care. Major changes include a duty on councils to assess carers without them having to request an assessment.

Summary report

http://www.justice.gov.uk/lawcommission/docs/lc326_Adult_Social_Care_Report_Summary.pdf

Full report (focus on carers is mainly part 7)

http://www.justice.gov.uk/lawcommission/docs/lc326_adult_social_care.pdf

Blue Badge Scheme

London: Dept for Transport, 2011

The parking scheme for people with severe mobility problems is being revised from April 2011. Changes include, increasing the maximum charge for the badge, giving local authorities greater powers to aid enforcement, wider use of independent mobility assessments and extending the scheme to include more disabled children and service personnel.

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/adobepdf/259428/281009/bluebadgereformstable.pdf>

Care and Compassion?

London: Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman, 2011

A report from the Ombudsman detailing ten investigations into NHS care of older people

http://www.ombudsman.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/7216/Care-and-Compassion-PHSO-0114web.pdf

Carers and Employment Bill

This was presented to Parliament on 26 January 2011 under the Ten Minute Rule Motion by Mark Williams, Liberal Democrat, Ceredigion. It makes greater provision for carers and flexible working. The second reading is on 17 June 2011 and the bill will be published before this date.

<http://www.theyworkforyou.com/debates/?id=2011-01-26a.328.0>

Mencap briefing for the Carers and Employment Bill 26 January 2011

<http://www.mencap.org.uk/document.asp?id=21164&audGroup=69&subjectLevel2=&subjectId=1&sorter=1&origin=subjectId&pageType=1824&pageno=&searchPhrase=>

Equality Act 2010: what do I need to know as a carer?

London: Government Equalities Office, 2010

The Equalities Act 2010 ensures carers cannot be discriminated against by association and should help more people receive better treatment and services.

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/GEO_EqualityAct2010_Carer_acc.pdf

Half a Million Voices: improving support for BAME carers

London: Carers UK, 2011

This report details the extra difficulties BAME carers face; including language barriers, culturally appropriate services and stereotyping. It gives examples of good practice.

<http://www.carersuk.org/professionals/resources/research-library/item/1958-half-a-million-voices-improving-support-for-bame-carers>

Health and Social Care Bill 2011

London: Dept Health, 2011

This Bill was introduced into Parliament on 19 January 2011. It includes the Government's vision to modernise the NHS so that it is built around patients and led by health professionals. The Bill takes forward the White Paper of July 2010 – Equity and Excellence: liberating the NHS.

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/healthandsocialcare.html>

Carers UK have produced a briefing regarding the pause in this bill. This gives an opportunity for an increased carer voice in both local and national HealthWatch.

<http://www.carersuk.org/professionals/resources/briefings/item/2115-the-health-and-social-care-bill-update>

No health without mental health: a cross-Government mental health outcomes strategy for people of all ages.

London: Dept Health, 2011 Published 2 February 2011.

This strategy aims to improve the mental health and well-being of the nation. It includes six key objectives and demonstrates the interrelationships between mental health, housing, employment and the criminal justice system.

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Mentalhealth/MentalHealthStrategy/index.htm>

Recognised, valued and supported: next steps for the Carers Strategy

London: Dept Health, 2010

This strategy describes how the Government will work with carers and carers' organisations over the next four years. Includes £400m to the NHS to provide breaks for carers and £6m to improve GP awareness of carer issues.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_122393.pdf

Valuing Carers 2011: calculating the value of carers' support

London: Carers UK, 2011

This research investigates the value of unpaid care given by family, friends and neighbours to someone who is ill, frail or disabled. It concludes that this is now greater than the cost of the NHS and is 37% higher than the 2007 estimate totalling £119 billion per year or £2.3 billion per week.

<http://www.carersuk.org/professionals/resources/research-library/item/2123-valuing-carers-2011>

A vision for adult social care: capable communities and active citizens

London: Dept Health, 2010

These reforms aim to give greater control to carers and individuals through increased use of personal budgets. Additional provision is to be offered for respite care. Documents include best practice guidance and practical examples.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_121508

Following the consultation a report detailing the outcomes has been published.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_125685.pdf

Money, Money, Money.

Well there is no getting away from it we are in the midst of reforms, cutbacks and major change to all our health and social care systems and finances are at the heart of much of the work. The DWP is busying itself with welfare benefits reform and the Bill was announced on 17 February 2011.

Putting People (and carers) First – Personalisation marches on.

In Social Care it is the personalisation agenda which rolls on unabated. Personal budgets, indicative amounts and self directed questionnaires are all terms we will have to begin to understand before they are abbreviated to PBs, IAs and SDQs to confuse us still further and much work is being done and documented both to explain and promote the processes and also to evaluate the pilots and projects that are already doing them. See below for lots of references and details to find out more...

Carers and personalisation: improving outcomes

Simpson, B. and Murray-Neill, R. London: Dept Health, 2010

This gives details of how personalisation can impact on carers. Includes practical examples for delivering better practice and outcomes through greater choice and control for carers.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_122383.pdf

Putting People First. Think local, act personal – partnership agreement confirmed as the future direction of social care

Updated 27 January 2011

A statement of increased partnership and collaborative working by statutory and voluntary organisations in social care has now been signed by twenty four organisations.

http://www.puttingpeoplefirst.org.uk/library/PPF/NCAS/THINK_LOCAL_ACT_PERSONAL_17_1_11.pdf

Welfare Reform Bill

London: Dept Health, 2011

This Bill was introduced to Parliament on 16 February 2011.

It includes:

- sweeping away the patchwork of benefits and credits and replacing them with a Universal Credit to make work pay;
- a Personal Independence Payment for disabled people targeting support at those who really need it;
- a new system of child support which puts the interest of the child first;
- new powers to tackle the problem of fraud and error.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/154/11154.pdf>

Carers UK have produced a briefing document highlighting what this bill would mean for carers and disabled people.

<http://www.carersuk.org/professionals/resources/briefings/item/1981-faqs-about-welfare-reform-bill>

Want to know more?

Please contact Carers Resource to find out more about resources:

- to support you working with carers
- for the carers themselves
- or to suggest topics for future bulletins

Carers' Resource offers a district wide specialist tailored information service and emergency planning service.

Contact us at

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