

Professional Awareness Bulletin – October 2011

WELCOME to the second 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'. We had a fantastic response to the first edition and hope we continue to delight.

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 emailing us at choices@carersresource.org. Please include contact and your job details.

Introduction

Following a super response last time we have the beginnings of a Carers Champion Network and are looking at ways of taking this forward but we still need more people to join the network and be the Carer Champion for their work place. If you think this could be you please contact Julie for more details.

This bulletin has a focus on **Carers and Employment** as it is clearly a key topic for the Government and many others.

For professionals as a resource we are able to offer lots of help to organisations around employing carers, checking policies and providing training so if you feel your organisation could benefit from this please don't hesitate to get in touch.

If you are a member of staff and concerned that your organisation doesn't do enough to support carers please let us know and we will do our best to help in confidence.

For carers themselves we have a project called New Directions which offers help, support and tailored training sessions focusing on a huge variety of different topics to enable carers to begin to think about getting back into work. More details are included at the end of the bulletin.

Local Update (Ian Brooke-Mawson, Commissioning Manager)

Carers remain very high on the agenda in Bradford and we are striving to improve the services on offer throughout the district.

On the 4th and 5th October, we were delighted to welcome four members of the Standing Commission on Carers (SCOC) for a two day fact-finding visit to Bradford. During the visit the Standing Commission members met with groups of carers, providers and managers to look at the many aspects of carer support and developments for the city and their comments and feedback were particularly encouraging.

As part of the visit, the Carers Provider Forum met with the visitors who were particularly impressed with the vibrancy and enthusiasm of the group.

The Carers' Reference group continues to meet regularly, most recently they have had the opportunity to comment on work around Housing Related Support and are currently supporting the development of a new carers information website which will be launched very soon.

Finally, the Carers Partnership itself has created a number of very strong work streams including one at Bradford Royal Infirmary led by Ruth Dixon looking at end of life care issues and hospital discharge, a workforce development workstream being led by Lisa Wright from Bradford District Care Trust and a workstream looking at coordinating the different support options for carers (e.g. breaks, information, specialist carer support, training and employment).

For information about any of the work streams, please contact Ian Brooke-Mawson on either 01274 437958 or ian.brooke-mawson@bradford.gov.uk.

National Issues

Since the last issue a number of key documents and papers which affect carers have come out and a brief summary with links to the full documents can be found below

Fairer Care Funding: the report of the Commission on funding of care and support (Dilnot Report)

London: Dept Health, 2011

The report was presented to the Government on 4 July 2011. The recommendations aim to eliminate the huge care costs faced by some people by capping the maximum amount individuals can contribute over their lifetime, beyond which the state will meet all future funding.

https://www.wp.dh.gov.uk/carecommission/files/2011/07/Fairer-Care-Funding-Report.pdf?utm_campaign=News%2BJuly_2011&utm_source=email-Campaign&utm_medium=email

The proposals have been broadly welcomed by "The Care and Support Alliance" representing fifty one national charities, who have called on the Government to produce a timetable for the reforms and publish a white paper by April 2012.

Carers UK have produced a briefing document highlighting how the proposals would affect carers.

<http://www.carersuk.org/professionals/resources/briefings/item/2239-dilnot-commission-briefing>

Caring for Our Future: shared ambitions for care and support

London: Dept Health, 2011

The Government launched this consultation exercise on 15 September 2011 following the Dilnot Report and the report from the Law Commission. It is an opportunity for professionals and carers to discuss people's priorities for care and support. These will feed into a White Paper that will be published in April 2012 as well as a progress report on funding reform. The deadline for written comments is **2 December 2011**.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@pg/documents/digitalasset/dh_130455.pdf

Health and Social Care Bill 2011

London: Dept Health, 2011

The first reading of this Bill in the House of Lords took place in September 2011 and the second reading began on 11 October 2011 when a detailed debate on all aspects of the Bill took place. The complete Bill can be found on the link below.

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2010-2012/0092/lbill_2010-20120092_en_1.htm

The Department of Health have published a series of factsheets covering topics in the Bill. These include case studies and FAQ

<http://healthandcare.dh.gov.uk/factsheets/>

The NHS Future Forum was launched on 6 April 2011 as part of the Government's listening exercise on the current Health and Social Care Bill. The Forum has made a series of recommendations within the four core themes of

- Choice and Competition
- Public Accountability and Patient Involvement
- Clinical Advice and Leadership
- Education and Training

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_127540.pdf

The NHS Future Forum 2 was launched on 18 August 2011 to continue consultations with patients, service users and professionals. The Forum will report back to Ministers later this year.

<http://healthandcare.dh.gov.uk/new-forum/>

Welfare Reform Bill

London: Dept Health, 2011

The Bill provides for the introduction of a 'Universal Credit' to replace a range of existing means-tested benefits and tax credits for people of working age, starting from 2013. The Bill follows the November 2010 White Paper, 'Universal Credit: welfare that works', which set out the Coalition

Government's proposals for reforming welfare to improve work incentives, simplify the benefits system by the introduction of a Universal Credit benefit and the introduction of a Personal Independence Payment for disabled people.

The Bill began its committee stage in the House of Lords on Tuesday 4 October 2011.

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

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

<http://www.carersuk.org/professionals/resources/briefings/item/2282-welfare-reform-bill-briefing-lords-second-reading-briefing>

Disability Alliance and Disability Benefits Consortium have produced briefings on the second reading and further information about the Bill.

<http://www.disabilityalliance.org/welreformlords.htm>

Carers and Employment

At best a juggling act, but more often a daunting and exhausting prospect. Carers are recognised as being one of the most economically inactive groups in society and the reasons for this are very clear. Lack of support, lack of understanding of rights and entitlements and lack of appropriate opportunities combine to mean that once a caring role is established a job or career is usually the first thing to suffer. Research has discovered that carers are, on average £11,050 worse off a year as a result of being a carer and invariably their own mental health, self worth and life outside being a carer is also affected.

The Carers Strategy refresh published in November 2010 contained several measures aimed at helping carers to balance caring with paid work. These include

- extending the right to request flexible working,
- developing the first all-age careers service,
- continuing to invest in supporting carers to return to work through Jobcentre Plus,
- promoting the growth of assistive living technologies which can help enable people to balance caring and work.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_122106.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

The second reading of the Bill was due to be on 9 September 2011 but has now been rescheduled to 3 February 2012. The bill is an amendment to Employment Rights Act 1996

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2010-2012/0136/2012136.pdf>

Mencap produced a briefing for the Carers and Employment Bill 26 January 2011

http://www.mencap.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2011-02/080211%20Brief%20Re%20carers%20employment_1.pdf

Carers and Employment: a guide to the right to request flexible working

London; Carers UK, 2011

Since the right to request flexible working was introduced in 2003 and extended in 2007 research has shown that 96% of requests from carers have been accepted. This guide includes a summary of employees' and employers' right and responsibilities when considering a request for flexible working.

<http://www.carersuk.org/professionals/order-publications/item/1913-carers-employment-a-guide-to-the-right-to-request-flexible-working-uk9019>

Caring at a Distance: bridging the gap

London; Carers UK, 2011

This survey was conducted by Employers for Carers to look at those caring for an ill, frail or disabled relative, partner or friend who may be living in another part of town, region, country or the world. The aim was to gain a greater understanding of the challenges faced by employees who are managing caring at a distance in order to identify and recommend solutions to facilitate better support.

<http://www.employersforcarers.org/latest-news/item/245-caring-at-a-distance-bridging-the-gap>

Carers and Employment – making a difference, realising potential

London; ADASS, 2011

This document has been produced by Carers UK, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) and Employers for Carers. This encourages statutory agencies, employers and carers' organisations to create opportunities for carers to have choices about employment and gives examples of good practice.

<http://www.employersforcarers.org/latest-news/item/247-employment-webinar-22-july-2011>

Consultation on Modern Workplaces

London: Dept for Business Innovation and Skills, 2011

This consultation includes proposals to extend the right to request flexible working to all employees as well as looking at flexible parental leave, changes to the Working Time Regulations and equal pay. The right to request flexible working has helped many carers juggling with employment and a caring role and this consultation would allow more people to benefit from flexible working.

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/employment-matters/docs/c/11-699-consultation-modern-workplaces.pdf>

Carers UK have welcomed this consultation, but believe that the Government needs to go further and deliver 'day one' rights to a request.

http://www.carersuk.org/media/k2/attachments/Carers_UK_response_to_Consultation_on_Modern_Workplaces.pdf

Carers' Resource in Bradford have recently set up **New Directions** – a service aimed at supporting carers with information, advice and guidance on any aspect of work, learning and leisure opportunities.

Carers often find it difficult to put themselves first and returning to work, looking for the right course to gain new skills/ qualifications or pursuing a leisure opportunity is a daunting task.

New Directions aims to give carers tailor made information, advice and guidance to help them achieve their aspirations.

We are offering a variety of courses including personal development, IT, job seeking skills and fun activities. We also offer one to one support to keep you motivated and going in the right direction! For more information please contact Stella Elson at the Bradford Office selson@carersresource.org or 01274 449660

Other Issues

Supporting Carers the Case for Change

Woodford Green: The Princes Royal Trust for Carers, 2011

This report gives both statistical evidence and examples of good practice of what can be achieved by increasing the financial allocations for support for carers. This results in;

- Improved health and wellbeing for carers and those they care for
- Reduced admissions, readmissions and delayed discharges to hospital
- Reduced unwanted residential care admissions and length of stays

http://www.carers.org/sites/default/files/supporting_carers_the_case_for_change.pdf

Acting Together Programme

London: Care Quality Commission, 2011

The Care Quality Commission announced Acting Together in August 2011.

This is a partnership scheme that enables CQC to call on people who use services to advise on and contribute to its work. Acting Together includes involving people as Experts by Experience on inspections of health and social care services and in visits to monitor the use of the Mental Health Act. The first three partners for the scheme are Age UK, Challenging Behaviour Foundation and Choice Support

http://www.cqc.org.uk/newsandevents/newsstories.cfm?widCall1=customWidgets.content_view_1&cit_id=37489

Personal Health Budgets: the views of service users and carers

London: Mental Health Network, NHS Confederation, 2011

This report examines the views of mental health service users and carers on personal budgets. There are doubts expressed over how this policy can change the services offered for clients and carers and recommendations for how the Government and local NHS organisations can proceed.

http://www.nhsconfed.org/Publications/Documents/Personal_health_budgets_100811.pdf

Want to know more?

To find out more about resources:

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

Please contact Carers' Resource.

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

Contact us at

15 Park View Court
St Paul's Road
Shipley
BD18 3DZ

bradford@carersresource.org or 01274 449660