

**Meeting of the Cabinet – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

**Report of the Director of Adult, Community & Housing Services**

**National Carers Strategy 2008**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To inform Cabinet of the publication of the National Carers Strategy 2008
2. To seek endorsement of progress on The National Carer's Strategy implementation in Dudley and to gain Cabinet approval to a revision of the Dudley Borough Carers Strategy 2007 - 2012

**Background**

3. It is estimated that one in ten people is a carer and that everyday 6,000 people take on new caring responsibilities. Dudley borough has 35,000+<sup>1</sup> carers performing a crucial role in families and the wider community by providing support, care and help to those who otherwise would struggle to manage alone
4. There is no fixed group that needs care. Relatives, friends, children, and older people with disabilities or those who are ill might need support
5. National consultation has been held by the Government. From this a vision was established that by 2018, carers would be recognised and valued as being fundamental to strong families and stable communities
6. The Joint Dudley Borough Carer's Strategy 2007 – 2012 was approved in 2007 and was developed following extensive local consultation with carers. It is proposed to revise the borough Strategy in light of the National Carers Strategy publication
  - Consultation with carers is a major strength of strategic development locally. This was recognised in the national publication "High Impact Changes in Health and Social Care" (2008) and cited Dudley as good practice in "treating carers as true partners by making them integral to the design, planning and delivery of services"
  - Consultation continues with carers on "Putting People First: Transformation of Social Care and personalisation of services and is a vital contribution
  - The proposed revision of the Carers Strategy will be informed by further carer consultation that includes a major Carers Week event (8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> June 2009). Activity will include carers involvement in an updated plan of action for 2009-2012. This years theme for Carers Week is "Carers...the UK's Secret Service"

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<sup>1</sup> Census data 2001

7. The National Carers' Strategy was introduced in June 2008. There is an explicit shared vision and responsibility between central and local government, the National Health Service, the third sector, families and communities. Carers, advocates and front line staff have helped to shape the Strategy
8. The Strategy aims to ensure that: -
  - Carers will be respected as expert care partners and will have access to the integrated and personalised services they need
  - Carers will be supported so that they are not forced into financial hardship, are able to stay mentally and physically well and are treated with dignity
  - Children and young people will be protected from inappropriate caring and have the support they need to learn, develop and thrive
9. There are five outcomes in the National Strategy, supported by clear plans for change: -
  1. Carers will be supported to have integrated and personalised services
  2. Carers will be able to have a life of their own alongside their caring role
  3. Carers will be supported so that they are not forced into financial hardship by their caring role
  4. Carers will be supported to stay mentally and physically well
  5. Children and young people will be protected from inappropriate caring and have the support they need to learn, develop and thrive.
10. These five outcomes represent the implementation plan to deliver the strategy. A Standing Commission on Carers has been established by the Government who will advise on the implementation plan and any changes to carers needs over the ten-year period. The Care Quality Commission, The Department of Health and The Strategic Health Authority can all be expected to have a performance monitoring assessment role to be implemented by Health and social care economies
11. The National Carers' Strategy outcomes and Dudley's current position and activity to address the Strategy

#### National Carers Strategy Outcomes & Dudley Position

Outcome	Dudley position
1. Carers will be supported to have integrated and personalised services	Dedicated <b>web pages</b> on the DMBC web site and <b>quarterly newsletter</b> for Carers. Carers as partners in care is a theme running through many local initiatives such as the <b>'Partners in Care' conferences in Mental Health Services; Dignity in Care</b> training; <b>Putting People First</b> . <b>'Peace of Mind' Emergency Card</b> to support carers in case of an accident or emergency. <b>Joint Carers Breaks Plan</b> being progressed. High quality support to Carers is exemplified by 2,463 carers receiving specific services in 08/09 which exceeded our target by nearly 500

Outcome	Dudley position
2. Carers will be able to have a life of their own alongside their caring role	<b>'Carers Direct'</b> provides one off payments to carers to enable a break, pursue a leisure activity or fund other carer specific services that the

	carers themselves identify. <b>Carers Breaks Services.</b>
3. Carers' will be supported so that they are not forced into financial hardship by their caring role	Support is in place for carers who work for the authority. A <b>Carers Charter</b> highlights the commitment as employers to support carers. <b>The Benefits Shop, Citizens Advice Bureau and specialist workers</b> employed by DACHS provide a vital contribution to carer support. The Council <b>promotes reductions in council tax</b> available to carers and those they care for.
4. Carers will be supported to stay mentally and physically well	Piloting <b>health checks for carers</b> and <b>GP Training Pilots</b> are to be progressed as part of the emerging Dudley Health and Social Care Primary Care Strategy. <b>Looking After Me.</b> <b>Manual handling</b> support.
5. Children and young people will be protected from inappropriate caring and have the support they need to learn, develop and thrive.	Directorate of the Urban Environment includes carers in the <b>Options Plus</b> scheme and leisure activities for carers. Dudley is a <b>Play Pathfinder</b> authority where young carers and disabled children should benefit by improvement in play areas. Good links with the <b>Carers Network and Children with Disabilities Register</b> to ensure information across transition. <b>Young Carers Breaks Services.</b>

## Finance

12. Dudley MBC is in receipt of a Department of Health recurring "un-ring fenced" Carers Grant of £1.638m for 2009/10 built into the Council's Area Based Grant allocation
13. 80% of the grant is for Adults Services with 20% being allocated to Children's Services
14. The Grant enables the council to continue existing spending schemes that contributes to the objectives of the National Strategy and includes Short Breaks at Home, Weekend Services, Emergency Carer Support, Day Support and the increased use of Carers Direct Payments
15. Dudley PCT has been allocated an estimated "un-ring fenced" Carers Allocation of £288,588 for 2009/10 and £577,175 for 2010/11 as a consequence of the National Carers Strategy to support breaks for carers.
16. A requirement in "The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2009/10: high quality care for all" is to develop and publish a joint plan on how combined funding will support breaks for carers, including short breaks, in a personalised way. A first draft of this plan is currently being progressed by Dudley PCT and Dudley MBC

## **Law**

17. The Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004 seeks to ensure that carers are identified and informed of their rights, that their needs for education, training, employment and leisure are taken into consideration and that public bodies recognise and support carers.
18. The Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000 makes provision regarding the assessment of carers' needs, provision of services to help carers and payments to carers and disabled children aged 16 or 17 in lieu of the provision of services.
19. Implementation of the National Carers' Strategy 2008 will be undertaken in accordance with the Human Rights Act 1998, taking specific account of the carers' basic human rights, and setting clear outcomes in consultation with carers, giving them a more powerful voice in expressing needs and influencing the services they receive.

## **Equality Impact**

20. An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken locally in March 2009 in respect of age, disability, race religion and beliefs, gender and sexual orientation
21. The outcome of the Equality Impact Assessment identified the need for further action in relation to the understanding of religion & beliefs and sexual orientation. Attention is currently being given to that of sexual orientation in light of the Equality Bill 2008 - 09

## **Recommendation**

- 22 It is recommended that Cabinet:
  - receives and comments on this Report
  - endorses the progress currently being made in addressing the National Carers Strategy's five outcomes
  - approves the review of the Dudley Borough Strategy 2007 – 2012 as a consequence of the National Carers Strategy 2008



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## **List of Background Papers**

- Dudley Borough Carers Strategy (2007 – 2012)
- National Carers Strategy 2008: Carers at the heart of 21<sup>st</sup> century families and communities; “A caring system on your side. A life of your own. Dept. of Health
- The Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000
- The Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004
- Our health, our care, our say: A new direction for community services. Department of Health (2006)
- Putting People First: A shared vision and commitment to the transformation of adult social care. HM Government (2007)
- The Operating Framework for England 2009/10: high quality care for all. Dept. of Health
- Equality Bill 2008 –09. HM Government