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**Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee – September 28<sup>th</sup> 2011**

**Report of the Lead Officer to the Committee**

**Committee Review 2011/12: Caring for Carers**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To seek approval of the aims, objectives and actions to deliver the Committee's 2011/12 Review on the theme, support for carers.

**Background**

2. At the last Committee meeting held on July 4 2011, Members agreed to undertake a review on the theme Support for Carers across health and social care.
3. An ageing population and increased community care policy drivers mean the number of people needing care at home continues to grow with support from family members. Mindful of the increasingly important role of carers the Committee wished to look into how they recognised, engaged, supported and valued within the local health community.
4. It was agreed the Review should be structured around the following areas:
  - Carers' needs assessment
  - Hospital admission and discharge
  - Identification within health and social care
  - Breaks and leisure
5. The specific aims and objectives for the review and proposed areas for exploration are presented in the attached scoping document for approval.
6. Participant Members will be consulted, on a call for evidence to relevant agencies, as per the usual evidence gathering process. A workshop will also be held with relevant practitioners across the health community in order to attain a deeper understanding of priorities; details will be circulated in due course.

**Proposals**

8. It is proposed the Committee approves the aims, objectives and actions set out at appendix 1 to deliver the review.
9. Members agree to hold a workshop with relevant practitioners to gather evidence and identify with key priorities.

10. The findings and conclusions will be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

### **Finance**

11. There are no direct/specific financial implications at this stage; any work progressed would need to be met within existing resources.
12. Any specific changes to services provided by the authority as a result of the findings/recommendations of this report would require further explanation and financial implications scrutinised.

### **Law**

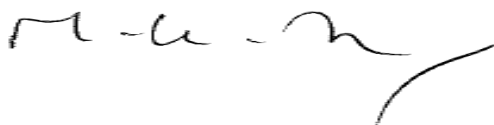
13. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 provides for Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees to review and scrutinise the actions of key health and social care providers.

### **Equality Impact**

14. The aims and objectives of this Review can be seen as contributing to the equality agenda in its pursuit of improving care for all. This implies a challenge to ensure that services meet the needs of all sectors of the community to make this an even greater reality in Dudley.

### **Recommendation**

15. It is recommended that the Committee approves the proposals in paragraphs 8-10.



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Lead Officer Select Committee on Health and Adult Social Care

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### **Background Papers**

Select Committee on Health and Adult Social Care July 2011 - Work Programme 2011/12.

**Directorate of Adult, Community & Housing Services  
Commissioning and Improvement**

## **HASC Review Proposal**

### **Project Title**

Caring for Carers

### **Participant Members**

Cllr Ridney (Chair)  
Cllr J D Davies (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Harris

### **Aim and objectives**

The 4 main aims distilled from broader objectives, informing the terms of reference are to:

- Assess current support available and evaluate user satisfaction and outcomes of the carers strategy for carers;
- assess the process for needs assessment and access to grants/allowances;
- assess processes helping people to identify themselves as carers and access of information and guidance;
- evaluate effectiveness of partnership arrangements particularly around the area short breaks and leisure.

NB: For the purpose of this review carers will be those who voluntarily look after another person(s). Further, Members agreed needs of young carers are often specialised (e.g. education and absence from school) and will not be addressed by this Review.

### **What level of support and consultation is required?**

- Leads within Adult Social Care and Health.
- Voluntary Sector input.
- Carers Forum.
- Local Involvement Network.
- Support, research and steering provided by the Scrutiny Officer.
- Research and meetings with other officers will be conducted as necessary.
- HR departments (in accommodating caring responsibilities).

## **Specific Outcomes Required**

To shape strategy, practices and policies through the clear recommendations and supporting action plan to evaluate impact and response.

### **Rationale** (key reasons for doing review)

In June 2008 the Government published its carers' strategy "Carers at the Heart of 21st – Century Families and Communities" This stated the Government's vision is that "by 2018 carers will be universally recognised and valued as being fundamental to strong families and stable communities".

It also highlights support will be tailored to meet individual needs enabling carers to maintain balance between their caring responsibilities and a life caring, whilst enabling the person they support to be a "full and equal citizen".

The 2008 Strategy states that,

- 1 in 10 people in the UK are carers at any one time (more women than men).
- In the 2001 census there were 5.2 million carers. (This has now risen to nearer 6 million).
- Of the 6 million carers more than 20% of them spend more than 20 hours a week caring.
- 1 in 7 of the workforce are carers.
- 40% of carers of working age would like to work now or in near future.

In addition The NHS Operating Framework for 09/10 calls on PCTs to work with their local authority partners and publish joint plans to show how their combined funding will support breaks for carers in a personalised way.

Finally as a result of community care drivers, and ageing population, the number of people needing care has grown. National and local policies mean that there are increasing numbers of people being cared for in their own homes with support from family members

### **Barriers/Risk**

- Shifting focus/'Project drift'
- Drawn into service issues connected to the person cared-for
- Expectations need to be managed carefully in the context of changes resulting from findings.