

**Meeting of the Cabinet – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

**Report of the Director of the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services**

**Carers Strategy: Revision 2010. - Draft**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To seek Cabinet endorsement for the above strategy.

**Background**

2. The Government White Paper 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say - Department of Health 2006, sets out the framework for engaging users of services in designing and developing services which are person centred and enhance the lives of their recipients. . It is a requirement within government directive that services for people with physical disabilities and/or sensory impairments acknowledge the shift in policy and subsequent focus on delivering positive outcomes for users of services and their carers.
3. Subsequent government agendas have also influenced the development of public policy, the most significant being 'Putting People First: A shared vision on Commitment to the Transformation of Adult Social Care, Department of Health 2007. This policy aims to deliver choice and control to service users by involving them in planning services that meet their needs.
4. The strategies listed above has been refreshed to reflect the principles of both Our Health, Our Care, Our Say and 'Putting People First' in the way it has actively engaged and involved carers in updating it.
5. The broader context for Cabinet endorsement of these strategies relate to the recent Inspection of Services for Older People by the Care Quality Commission and the subsequent action plan drawn up by the directorate to address the issues referenced in the report. In line with the response to the Care Quality Commission inspection the directorate, as part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment, is now required to consider the delivery of health and social care services against the outcomes outlined in Our Health, Our Care, Our Say. The strategies listed above have been refreshed or rewritten to reflect this methodology.
6. Existing and projected efficiencies on public spending have also placed a responsibility on the council to develop and update of commissioning strategies to reflect future roles in preventing, reducing, or delaying, health and social care costs. (Under pressure- Tackling the financial challenge for councils of an ageing population, Audit Commission Feb 2010)
7. The strategy has been reported at the Carers' Strategy Group which will monitor the activity of each representative service area to ensure that Carers are afforded

assessments according to their rights under the Carers Recognition their rights and enjoy assessment a Older Persons Board and the delivery of the actions, outlined in the strategy, are subject to its governance. Copies of the strategy are available in the Members Library and on CMIS

8. **The Carers Strategy, 2007 – 2012: Revision January 2010**

9. This revision considers the strategic aims of the original strategy:

- Provide practical support and information to support carers.
- Improve carer well-being.
- Promote choice to enable carers and service users to have more power and control over their lives.
- Recognise the carer and cared for as valued people within the community.
- Help people to identify themselves as carers.

10. The revised strategy responds to these strategic aims in reaffirming the council adoption of the Kings Fund's Quality Standards for Local Carer Support Services. These relate to:

- Information for carers
- Provision of breaks for carers
- Emotional support for carers
- Support to care and maintain carer's own health
- A voice for carers

11. In line with these standards the strategy defines the outcomes that represent the needs and wishes of carers and outlines the actions to achieve these outcomes and aligns them with other relevant and current DACHS, Primary Care Trust and Council strategies, departmental priorities and the Transforming Social Care Agenda.

12. The strategy also encompasses the actions set out in the Care Quality Commission Inspection Action plan in addressing the Information needs of carers and their need for a stand-alone assessment under the Carers Recognition Act.

13. The intended outcome of refreshing the strategy is to deliver services that focus on the delivery of positive outcomes for users of services and their carers in line with the principles of choice and control and the Transforming Social Care (TSC) Agenda.

14. **Finance**

Whilst there are no immediate financial consequences to this report for the Council, the principles and underlying philosophy of the strategies are aimed at ensuring positive outcomes for the citizens of Dudley. The overarching principle and policy for delivering these strategies is outlined in the Transforming Social Care Agenda, which will have financial implications in the provision of self directed support across all service user groups. The implications of this agenda are considered by the Transforming Social Care Board and reported separately to Directorate Management Team and Cabinet. The outcomes for users of services and their carers, identified in the strategies, will be considered in the

directorates medium and long term financial plan to deliver services within limited resources to a the increasing demands of an ageing population.

15. **Law**

'Putting People First' –Transforming the Social Care Agenda (Department of Health) 2007 and the inspection of councils under the Health & Social Care Act (Department of Health) 2008 are the primary policy drivers influencing the development of strategies that focus on outcomes that deliver personalised services that offer choice and control to users of services and their carers. The forthcoming Equalities Bill, April 2010, will have a likely impact on delivering these strategies in supporting services which do not discriminate with regard to age, disability, race, gender or sexuality.

16. **Equality Impact**

The strategy is fundamentally aimed at addressing issues of choice and control and the provision of personalised services. Inherent in the delivery of such services are the principles outlined in the Equality Bill 2010.

17. The strategy will be subject to consultation as per council protocol in addition to Equality Impact Assessments being undertaken on the strategy within the consultation period. The outcome of consultation and the assessments will be considered to ensure that the strategy meets the requirements of the Equality Bill in ensuring that people who receive a service are free from discrimination.

18. **Recommendation**

That Cabinet comment on the strategy covered in this Report and support its implementation in Dudley.



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**List of Background Papers – (in draft format and available in Members Library and CMIS)**

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