

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT, SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH**

**Venue: Town Hall, Moorgate  
Street, Rotherham.**

**Date: Monday, 10 March 2008**

**Time: 9.30 a.m.**

### **A G E N D A**

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
3. Apologies for Absence.
4. Minutes of previous meeting held on 25th February, 2008 (copy herewith) (Pages 1 - 4)
5. Adult Services Revenue Budget Report 2007/08 (Pages 5 - 9)
6. Date and time of next meeting:-  
- Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2008 at 9.30 a.m.

#### **Extra Item**

7. Rotherham Carers Strategy Refresh (copy herewith) (Pages 10 - 36)

**CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT, SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH**  
**Monday, 25th February, 2008**

Present:- Councillor Kirk (in the Chair); Councillors Doyle, Gosling and Jack.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hodgkiss and P. A. Russell.

**94. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 11TH FEBRUARY, 2008**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2008 be approved as a correct record.

**95. LOCAL IMPROVEMENT NETWORKS (LINKS)**

In accordance with Minute No. B121 of a meeting of the Cabinet held on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2008, consideration was given to a report on the new ways for patients and the public to be involved in decisions about the operation of health and social care services through the establishment of Local Involvement Networks (LINKs).

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act sets out a duty for all social services authorities to make arrangements for LINK activities to take place, through a contract with a host organisation. The report provided an update on progress to date and set out the timetable for the procurement of the 'Host' organisation.

Steve Turnbull, Head of Public Health, reported that, following the advertisement in the European Journal, 11 requests for information had been received. 5 organisations had submitted pre-tender questionnaires who would be invited to make formal tender applications. The contract would be awarded in May, 2008.

There would be a gap between the contract commencing and the demise of the Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Forums. It was hoped that the existing PPI members would become a committee that could be consulted in the intervening period. An officer working group had been established and expanded to include other partners.

Any issues or complaints received in that 6 week time gap would be referred to the LINK.

Resolved:- (1) That the contents of the report be noted.

(2) That the proposals for use of the free consultancy advice provided by the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) Expert Advisory Team be noted, as approved by Cabinet on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2008 (Minute No. B121).

(3) That the response to the LINKs Regulations consultation, as attached

at Appendix 2 of the report now submitted, be noted.

**(THE CHAIRMAN AUTHORISED CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS  
IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH THE MATTERS REFERRED TO WITHOUT DELAY)**

**96. CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2007/08**

The Service Accountant (Adult Services) presented the submitted report on the latest projections and commitments against the approved Adult Services capital programme for the 2007/08 financial year.

The capital monitoring report provided detail of the approved Capital Programme for Adult Services, actual expenditure for the period April to mid-January, 2008, and the projected expenditure for each scheme to the end of March, 2008.

The approved 2007/08 Capital Budget for Adult Services had been revised to take account of slippage in a number of schemes and therefore reduced from £15.6M to £12.6M. The main revision was in respect of the two new residential care homes. Actual expenditure to mid-January, 2008 was £5.9M. The approved schemes were funded from a variety of different funding sources including unsupported borrowing, allocations from the capital receipts, Supported Capital Expenditure and specific capital grant funding.

The report gave a brief summary of the latest position on the main projects within each client group, as follows:-

- ❖ Older People
- ❖ Learning Disabilities
- ❖ Mental Health
- ❖ Management Information

Resolved:- That the report be received and the latest capital expenditure monitoring report for 2007/08 be noted.

**97. NEW RESIDENTIAL HOMES - CURRENT POSITION**

In accordance with Minute No. 92(2) of 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2008, the Project and Partnerships Manager (Rotherham Construction Partnership) gave a verbal update as follows:-

- ❖ Timetable
- ❖ Pre-fabricated unit manufacturer
- ❖ Sprinklers/fire strategy
- ❖ Highway drainage

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

**3D CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT, SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH - 25/02/08**

**98. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in those paragraphs, indicated below, of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended.

**99. INTRODUCTION OF A FLAT RATE TRANSPORT CHARGE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Health and Wellbeing on a proposal, and the implications of reintroducing, a flat rate charge of £1.00 per return journey for day care transport to be effective from April 2008, and a proposal to process consultation, prior to the final decision being made.

The report contained details of the projected impact of the proposal and the process by which consultation would be carried out.

Resolved:- (1) That, subject to the outcome of the consultation exercise, a flat rate day care transport charge of £1.00 per return journey be implemented with effect from Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2008.

(2) That a consultation process with customers be implemented prior to a final decision being made.

(3) That a final report outlining the results of the consultation be submitted to a future meeting.

(Exempt under Paragraph 3 of the Act – information relating to financial/business affairs)

**(THE CHAIRMAN AUTHORISED CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING MATTER IN ORDER TO KEEP MEMBERS FULLY INFORMED)**

**100. IN-HOUSE RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION CHARGES 2008/09**

Consideration was given to a report of the Business Development Manager on In-House Residential Accommodation Charges 2008/09.

The report detailed the proposals for setting the interim maximum charge (full cost) to service users for the provision of in-house residential care for the 2008/09 financial year, calculated in accordance with CIPFA guidance.

The Council has a statutory duty to set a full cost charge for residential accommodation provided in Local Authority Homes. This charge has to reflect the total costs of providing residential care and reflect expenditure such as running costs and management overheads.

The report provided information with regard to:-

- ❖ Homes for Older People
- ❖ Homes for Other Service User Groups

Resolved:- (1) That the charges as set out in Appendix 1 of the report now submitted be agreed.

(2) That the interim charges, as agreed, be effective from the 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2008.

(3) That a further report be submitted to Members setting out the maximum charges for the two new residential care homes.

(4) That the report be referred to the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel for information.

(Exempt under Paragraph 3 – information relating to the financial/business affairs of the Council).

<b>ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS</b>
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<b>1</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Monday 10 March 2008</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Adult Services Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2007/08.</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Directorate :</b>	<b>Neighbourhoods and Adult Services</b>

## **5 Summary**

**This Budget Monitoring Report provides a financial forecast for the Adult Services Department within the Neighbourhoods and Adult Services Directorate to the end of March 2008 based on actual income and expenditure to the end of January 2008.**

During the year there have been a number of budget pressures within the service, mainly in respect of the non-achievement of a number of savings proposals, built into the 2007/08 budget, for reducing service level agreements with voluntary and community sector providers in addition to demand pressures on domiciliary and residential care budgets. These have been reported throughout the year in previous budget monitoring reports. A number of management actions to reduce these pressures were also identified however subsequent to implementing these actions, a significant pressure remained. As part of the Revised Estimates process the Cabinet approved an additional one-off budget allocation of £974k to reduce the projected overspend in 2007/08. The forecast position for the year assuming the remaining management actions are fully implemented is now a balanced budget.

## **6 Recommendations**

**Members are asked to note:**

**The latest balanced financial projection against budget for the year based on actual income and expenditure to the end of January 2008 for Adult Social Services.**

## **7 Proposals and Details**

### **7.1 The Current Position**

7.1.1 The approved revenue budget for Adult Services for 2007/08 is £60.55m. Additional funding was approved for 2007/08 as part of the MTFS to fund a number of demographic and existing budget pressures, however, a number of underlying pressures remained. A range of management actions have been determined through budget performance clinics together with the additional one off budget allocation for 2007/08 of £974k agreed by Cabinet on 12 December 2007 to offset these budget pressures.

7.1.2 The latest budget monitoring report for Adult Services shows a projected balanced budget by the end of the financial year assuming the successful implementation of a number of management actions.

7.1.3 There still remains underlying budget pressures within Domiciliary Care services, including a shortfall in income from charges against the approved budget plus pressures within Physical and Sensory Disabilities mainly within residential care due to increased demand and an increase in the average cost of care packages.

7.1.4 These pressures are being reduced by:-

- projected underspends in independent residential care and extra care housing within Older Peoples services,
- slippage in developing supported living schemes within Learning Disability services and further additional income from continuing health care funding and
- management actions identified from budget performance clinics

### **7.2 Current Action**

To mitigate the financial pressures within the service recruitment to all vacancies continues to require the approval of the Directorate Management Team. Financial performance clinics continue to operate to review areas where financial performance is projected to exceed the approved budget.

All care packages continue to be reviewed against the eligibility criteria and funding pursued with the Primary Care Trust in respect of continuing health care. Further reviews are also currently taking place on the provision of meals on wheels and transport to ascertain whether any savings may be achieved in these services.

## **8. Finance**

Finance details are included in section 7 above and the attached appendix shows a summary of the overall financial projection for each main client group.

## 9. Risks and Uncertainties

The demand for services over the winter months may impact on the revenue budget and therefore is being closely monitored and managed through the weekly placement panel. Non delivery of the proposed management actions will also impact on the ability to achieve a balanced budget and additional budget performance clinics have been arranged this month to monitor progress. It is also assumed that the additional costs of job evaluation will be met centrally. Careful scrutiny of expenditure and income and close budget monitoring remains essential to ensure equity of service provision for adults across the Borough within existing budgets.

## 10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The delivery of Adult Services within its approved cash limit is vital to achieving the objectives of the Council and the CSCI Outcomes Framework for Performance Assessment of Adult Social Care. Financial performance is also a key element within the assessment of the Council's overall performance.

## 11. Background Papers and Consultation

- Report to Cabinet on 28 February 2007 –Proposed Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2007/08.
- The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2007-2010.
- Revised Estimates Report to Cabinet – 12 December 2007.

This report has been discussed with the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Adult Services and the Strategic Director of Finance.

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**ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES  
REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING SUMMARY**

EXPENDITURE/INCOME TO DATE (As at 31 January 2008)											PROJECTED OUT-TURN					Revised Financial RAG Status	* Note	
Last Net Projected Variance £	Directorate/Service Area	Expenditure			Income			Net			Net							
		Profiled Budget £000	Actual Spend to date £000	Variance (Over (+) / Under (-) Spend) £000	Profiled Budget £000	Actual Income to date £000	Variance (Over (+) / Under (-) Recovered) £000	Profiled Budget £000	Actual Net Expenditure to date £000	Variance (Over (+) / Under (-) Spend) £000	Annual Budget £000	Proj'd out turn £000	Variance (Over (+) / Under (-) Spend) £000	Current Financial RAG Status	Financial Impact of Management Action £000	Revised Projected Year end Variance Over(+)/Under(-) spend £000		
	<b>Adult Services</b>																	
246	Older People's Services	47,425	47,778	353	(11,834)	(12,765)	-931	35,591	35,013	-578	35,142	35,535	393	Red	(58)	335	Red	1
(380)	Learning Disabilities	17,093	16,714	-379	(6,237)	(6,206)	31	10,856	10,508	-348	12,352	11,822	(530)	Green	0	(530)	Green	2
145	Physical & Sensory Disabilities	4,442	4,882	440	(312)	(540)	-228	4,130	4,342	212	5,138	5,293	155	Red	0	155	Red	3
93	Mental Health	3,999	4,588	589	(230)	(580)	-350	3,769	4,008	239	3,415	3,537	122	Red	(22)	100	Green	4
0	Head of Services & Policy & Development	331	340	9	(51)	(65)	-14	280	275	-5	278	297	19	Red	0	19	Green	5
0	Supporting People	6,324	6,324	0	(6,913)	(6,913)	0	-589	-589	0	94	94	0	Green	0	0	Green	
	<b>Commissioning, Quality &amp; Performance</b>																	
6	Adult Services Business Unit	1,614	1,614	0	(27)	(19)	8	1,587	1,595	8	2,881	2,901	20	Red	0	20	Red	6
(74)	CQP Management	249	258	9	(22)	0	22	227	258	31	262	199	(63)	Green	0	(63)	Green	
(36)	Planning Workforce & Compliance	857	843	-14	(532)	(81)	451	325	762	437	961	925	(36)	Green	0	(36)	Green	
0	Performance Information & Quality	417	417	0	(8)	(4)	4	409	413	4	608	608	0	Green	0	0	Green	
0	<b>Total Adult Social Services</b>	82,751	83,758	1,007	(26,166)	(27,173)	-1,007	56,585	56,585	0	61,131	61,211	80		(80)	0		

**Reason for Variance(s), Actions Proposed and Intended Impact on Performance**

**NOTES** **Reasons for Variance(s) and Proposed Actions**

Indicate reasons for variance (e.g. increased costs or client numbers or under performance against income targets) and actions proposed to address the

**Main Reasons for Variance**

**Older People**

Continued increase in demand for Domiciliary Care services over and above budget due to demographic pressures including a shortfall against budget in income from Charges (£701k). Pressure on in-house residential care due to increase in cost of cover plus pressures on in-house day care (£454k). Pressures are being reduced by the current underspend on independent residential care including income from property charges (-£698k). Slippage in the start up of Extra Care Housing at Potteries Court (-£151k).

**Learning Disabilities**

Recurrent overspend on day care transport (£114k) offset by slippage on the start up of new Supported Living Schemes (-£324k) and further underspend on residential care placements (-£277k) due to additional income from Continuing Health Care.

**Physical and Sensory Disabilities**

Increases in admissions to residential care over and above budget - net 5 additional placements this year plus cost of full year effect of an additional 4 placements made in March 2007 (£111k), being reduced by additional income from Independent Living Fund (£-80k). Increase in cost of care packages for clients receiving Home Care (£43k) plus overspend on Direct Payments (£93k).

**Mental Health**

Overspend on residential care due to additional placements (£120k)

**Head of Services & Policy & Development**

Cost of Absence Officer post unbudgeted (£26k), savings from reduced sickness absence across all client groups.

**Commissioning, Quality and Performance**

Non achievement of Business Unit vacancy factor (£40k), increased costs of recruitment (£20k) offset by underspend on vacant posts (-£135k).

**Proposed Actions to Address Variance**

**Older People**

Review of provision of high cost Direct Payments and continuation of the review of placements at Senior Managers Panel. Reviews on a number of services including Meals on Wheels and Transport to all client groups in order to identify potential savings.

**Physical and Sensory Disabilities**

Review of the cost of care packages for Residential care and Home Care plus Direct payments.

**Mental Health**

Efficiency savings being agreed with providers, examination of other funding streams including the use of capital resources.

**Commissioning, Quality and Performance**

All vacancies continue to be vetted and approved at Directorate Management Team. Monitor and challenge all corporate charges.

**Management actions continue to be developed to ensure expenditure is contained within the approved cash limited budget, including the operation of regular finance performance clinics and the continuation of the Senior Officer Panel to review all care packages.**

**Performance**

(List key targets and RAG status- highlight impact of actions intended to address budget)

**Residential/Nursing Care**

Performance indicator C72 - national target to reduce admissions (Target 95) - currently predicted off target (113.22).

**Home care**

Any reduction in the numbers of intensive home care packages (i.e. more than 10 hours and 5 visits of care per week) would have a negative impact on performance indicator C28, which is currently off target (Target 16, performance 13.94).

**Direct Payments**

The increasing numbers is improving performance on key performance indicator C51. Reducing expenditure in line with budget would have an adverse effect on performance and may impact on Star ratings. Target 150 - current score 155)

<b>ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS</b>
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1	<b>Meeting:</b>	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
2	<b>Date:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> March, 2008
3	<b>Title:</b>	Rotherham Carers' Strategy Refresh
4	<b>Programme Area:</b>	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5. **Summary**

To update Members on the Rotherham Carers Strategy 2008 Refresh and inform members of the National Carers Strategy due to be launched later this year.

6. **Recommendations**

- (i) **That Members receive this report.**
- (ii) **That Members note the performance to date and proposed future actions.**
- (iii) **That Members acknowledge the impending national carers strategy and receive a new local Carers Strategy for 2008-2013 by the end of the year.**

## 7. Proposals and Details

### 7.1 Background

Carers in Rotherham save the local economy £462 million per year, an average of £15,260 per carer. Of those carers over 7,000 provide in excess of 50 hours of care per week. It is estimated that every year in Rotherham another 8000 people become carers. This number is likely to rise over the next 10 – 15 years.

The purpose of the 2005-2008 strategy is to help Rotherham's health and social care economy (statutory and voluntary) to support carers, so that those who wish to can continue to provide care. While there are many issues that affect all carers, the strategy acknowledges both the uniqueness of each individual carer's situation and the specific needs of individual who is cared for. Annual action plans make the process more accessible to scrutiny through monitoring the delivery of value for money services that meet identified needs.

### 7.2 Key findings

During the course of the last year a number of significant achievements have been delivered. We have:

- More than doubled the number of carers who have received an assessment or review of their needs in the last year,
- Provided a 24/7 emergency response services for all carers with access to home based respite when required,
- Expanded the training opportunities for carers on a broader base of relevant issues such as the implications of the Mental Capacity Act.
- Supported the continuation and enhancement of the Carers Information Centre which now has fully trained volunteers,
- Established the Carers Leads Group with representative from all Council Directorates, the Primary Care Trust and the Acute Trust. The group meet bi-monthly to highlight and address carers issues, identify and involve carers in policy and service development and co-ordinate information events.

### 7.3 Key actions

Consultation has taken place with carers and statutory organisations throughout the year and a provisional action plan has been developed for the coming year. Actions arising from the consultation will provide:-

- Accurate, easily accessible, timely and jargon free information that meets the extensive needs of carers;

- appropriate support to carers, helping them to identify themselves as a carer and providing the support networks and training opportunities to make caring a positive experience;
- opportunities for carers to maintain their own health, ability to work and social wellbeing in the form of a break from their role as a carer. This will be delivered through day services, home based sitting and peer support.

#### 7.4 **Beyond 2008**

The current strategy is almost at the end of its intended focus and as the new National Carers Strategy is being developed, the action plan for 2008/09 will change radically and be incorporated into a new Rotherham Carers Strategy 2008 – 2013. Work has already begun on the development of this document with all statutory and voluntary agencies taking part with carers.

The timeline for the development process is dependant on the release of the national strategy. It is proposed to hold a large event in Rotherham during the summer of 2008 to consult on the implications of the new strategy and what action needs to be taken to enhance current services. This will then be enhanced by a series of smaller focus groups around health, financial, community employment, training and equality issues.

### 8. **Finance**

- 8.1 There are a number of actions identified within the report which have an impact on the use of resources. These will be addressed through existing resources which are supplemented by the Carers Grant. Rotherham has been allocated:-

<b>Year</b>	<b>Carers Grant Funding</b>
2008/2009	£1,253,000
2009/2010	£1,333,000
2010/2011	£1,427,000

### 9. **Risks and Uncertainties**

- 9.1 Revision of the Strategy and review of services and policies, together with continued improvements to performance information about carer services, will reduce the risk of delivering inappropriate services and will place us in a better position to meet the needs of carers.
- 9.2 The revised completion date of November 2008 for the new Rotherham Carers Strategy is highly dependant on the release, this summer of the National Carers Strategy. There is a high risk that should the new government target not be a further delay will be inevitable.

10. **Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

- 10.1 All the actions developed in the revised carers strategy will have a significant impact on our ability to deliver improved performance against the all the objectives in the Outcomes Framework. Carers are especially relevant in promoting *improved health and wellbeing and exercising choice and control*.
- 10.2 Providing appropriate advice and support to carers, helps them to retain their chosen lifestyle, making it possible for them to continue to care. Inevitably, this will improve performance across all disciplines of health and social care services. This culture will enable service users to be more independent and in control of their own lives and the decision they make.

11. **Background Papers and Consultation**

The Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act, 2004  
National Carers Strategy, 1999  
Rotherham Carers Strategy 2005 to 2008  
New Deal for Carers – carers engagement programme November 2007

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Who is a Carer?



...they all are!

# Rotherham Carers' Strategy 2008 Update

**DRAFT**

## **Foreword by Cllr Richard Russell**



### **Rotherham Carers' Champion**

Welcome to the updated Carers Strategy which will explain what we have been able to achieve in Rotherham over the last year. We have also involved Carers to see how we can improve existing services and which new ones need to be developed.

Significant legislative changes have taken place over the past few years and 2007 was no exception in progressing positive developments for Carers. The government extended its commitment to Carers through the provision of funding for the development of a telephone helpline, new website, extra training and also emergency provision.

In Rotherham we recognise and value the important contribution that Carers make in providing Care in the Community. The Government cannot provide for all the people with physical or sensory disabilities or learning disabilities, mental health problems or older people who want to live at home.

Caring can be a positive experience if the appropriate services are available. This strategy sets out to provide a greater understanding of how we plan to involve, inform and support Carers in the future.

Thanks to all Carers who led to the production of this document.



# 1. Introduction

Welcome to the final update of the 2005-2008 Carers Strategy.

Rotherham Borough Council has had a multi-agency Carers Strategy in place since 2002. The strategy has and continues to give direction for developing support and services for Carers. The local authority, NHS, voluntary partners and Carers have all worked in partnership to develop and monitor the strategy, improving equality of access.

This document was originally influenced by the National Carers Strategy which was first published in 1999. However during the last twelve months there has been nationwide consultation. The initial findings of this consultation has informed this strategy update. A new five year strategy will be developed later this year after the new National Carers Strategy is released during the summer.

To be able to carry out their caring role Carers have said that they need:

- recognition and respect
- information and advice
- clear and accessible assessments of their needs
- support to help them maintain their own health and wellbeing
- breaks from caring
- support so that they can work, or continue with their education or training
- services that enable them to participate in their communities and facilitate social inclusion
- financial advice
- flexible housing solutions that also recognise the needs of the Carer

This strategy aims to form a clear direction of travel for the enhancement of existing services and the development of initiatives which responds to these identified needs.

## 2. Background

### 2.1 Who is a Carer?

*“Carers look after family, partners or friends in need of help because they are ill, frail or have a disability. The care they provide is unpaid.”* (Carers UK definition).

A Carer is someone who gives help and support to a relative, child, spouse, partner, sibling, parent, neighbour or friend who, due to disability, illness or frailty, is unable to manage living in their own home without help.

Carers are unpaid, may be of any age and they may live with, or apart from, the cared for person. Carers fall into the following categories:

- Adult Carers: an adult caring for another adult such as a husband or wife, partner, friend or relative
- Parent Carers of Children with Disabilities: an adult who cares for a child with a long-term illness or disability
- Young Carers: a young person under the age of 18, who is in some way affected by the need to take physical, practical and/or emotional responsibility for the care of another person

Carers UK estimate that:

*“Three in five people will become a Carer during their lifetime.”*

### 2.2 Legislation and Guidelines

Over the last 20 years there have been a number of Government directives, which can be found at Appendix 1, incorporate the importance of providing support and advice to Carers across the county.

The main issues highlighted include:

- emphasising the crucial role of the Health service in ensuring that Carers’ needs are identified and met, in partnership with the Local Authority.
- giving Carers a mandatory right to have their own assessment if they provide or intend to provide a substantial amount of care on a regular basis. Expanding this assessment to take into account their interests such as employment, education and leisure pursuits.

More recently the Commission for Social Care Inspectorate released a New Outcomes Framework for Performance Assessment of Adult Social Care which aims to put people who receive services and their Carers at the heart of the process through:

- Improving the **health and emotional wellbeing** of Carers.

- Putting in systems and services so that Carers can **stay safe**, both in terms of maintaining **dignity and respect** and in taking measures to increase **freedom from discrimination or harassment**.
- Supporting Carers to enjoy and improve their **quality of life** and to achieve better satisfaction through increased **choice and control**.
- Effectively ensuring that Carers are able to sustain **economic well being**.
- Establishing ways in which Carers can be involved in **making a positive contribution** to their local communities and decision making in the development of policies and services.

### 2.2.1 The National Carers Strategy (1999)

Nationally, the work of Carers saves social care, health services and other statutory bodies in excess of £34 billion a year. Recent research found that 77% of responding Carers who provided very substantial amounts of care stated that they had become worse off financially since they began caring. Source: *Without Us, Calculating the Cost of Carers Support*, Carers UK.

The Government believes caring should be something that is a positive experience and the current National Carers Strategy released in 1999 identified three strategic themes:

#### 1) Information for Carers

Providing Carers with clear, up-to-date, accessible information in a variety of languages and formats enables them to make choices, obtain appropriate services and have more control over their own lives.

#### 2) Support for Carers

All agencies should offer support to Carers and involve them in the policy development, planning, provision and evaluation of the services they use, including helping them to combine employment with caring.

#### 3) Care for Carers

Enabling Carers to retain some of their independence can also help Carers to continue to care. It is essential that Carers have time to pursue their own interests and take care of their own needs. Providing breaks from caring is invaluable in reducing the psychological and emotional stress faced by many Carers.

A key factor in the government's focus on Carers is a requirement for local authorities to work with other partners and Carers and to develop services to meet identified needs, a local Carers' strategy is an effective and efficient way of delivering this vision.

### 2.2.2 National recognition of Carers

Nationally the importance of the role that Carers fulfil has been recognised through:

- the establishment of a specific Carers' Grant paid to all local authorities

- extending direct payments to Carers.
- measuring the performance of councils in how many Carers have an assessment and how many breaks are provided.
- Carers' Equal Opportunities Act 2004.

and in 2007 assistance has been expanded to include:

- A specific grant to establish an emergency care service to support Carers in crisis situations.
- a national telephone helpline and website.
- The development of an expert patient programme, to be developed in conjunction with the voluntary sector.

## 2.3 Facts about Carers in Rotherham

Below are some facts about Carers in Rotherham that have been discovered during the research undertaken for the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. These include:

1. One in eight adults are Carers, around 30 thousand people<sup>1</sup>.
2. Carers in Rotherham save the local economy £462 million per year, an average of £15,260 per Carer<sup>2</sup>.
3. Over fifteen thousand people juggle care with work<sup>2</sup>.
4. The main Carer's benefit is £48.65 for a minimum of 35 hours, equivalent to £1.39 an hour\*
5. Over 7,000 local people provide more than 50 hours of care per week<sup>1</sup>.
6. People providing high levels of care are twice as likely to be permanently sick or disabled\*
7. Over five thousand people care for more than one person<sup>2</sup>.
8. 67% of Carers are women and 33% are men<sup>3</sup>.
9. By 2037 the number of Carers could increase to more than 40 thousand<sup>2</sup>.
10. Every year over 8 thousand people in Rotherham become Carers<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Numbers directly from Census 2001 data. This includes unpaid care.

<sup>2</sup> UK facts from Carers UK website applied proportionately to Census 2001 figures.

<sup>3</sup> UK facts from Carers UK website applied proportionately to Census 2001 figures.

<sup>4</sup> Data from DWP claimant figures February 2007

\* As stated on Carers UK website

### 3. Aims of the update of the Carers Strategy

The purpose of the 2005-2008 strategy is to help Rotherham's health and social care economy (statutory and voluntary) to support carers, so that those who wish to can continue to provide care. While there are many issues that affect all carers, the strategy acknowledges both the uniqueness of each individual carer's situation and the specific needs of individual who is cared for. Annual action plans make the process more accessible to scrutiny through monitoring the delivery of value for money services that meet identified needs.

The Rotherham Carers Strategy aims to:

- Recognise the value of Carers. Carers are a major resource in the care of an individual who has a disability, illness or is an older person.
- Devise methods of identifying Carers and ensure that when a service users' needs are assessed or reviewed – Carers are offered an assessment of **their** needs.
- Develop the process and improve the quality of Carer assessments to ensure that Carers are recognised and treated as individuals in their own right.
- Produce training and guidance for staff to ensure that Carers maintain their own health (including mental health and social wellbeing).
- Ensure that all RMBC Directorates are aware of their duty to support Carers in respect of their educational, housing and employment needs.
- Develop employment policies and flexible employment arrangements to ensure that Carers can enter employment, remain in employment or return to work if they wish to do so. Encourage other local businesses and agencies to adopt the policies.
- Ensure that the service delivery across Children and Young People's Services and Neighbourhood and Adult Services operates consistently in order to ensure appropriate support for young Carers.
- Recognise the contribution that Carers can make to all reviews of existing services and the development of new ones.
- Ensure the effective use of funding streams including the Carers' Grant to develop services and initiatives.

Our intention is to take positive steps to improve the recognition and status of Carers by changing and improving the ways that agencies work in planning and delivering services. We recognise the major role played by Carers in supporting people in the community who are frail, ill or disabled and the need for Carers to be recognised and valued.

Throughout this process all agencies will work in partnership with Carers to raise awareness of Carers' issues. We value the contribution they make and will:

- treat them as partners in providing care at all times.
- give them a choice in the amount of care they give, making sure they are not compelled to care or feel they must continue to care if they no longer feel able to do so.
- encourage them to identify themselves as a Carer at the earliest possible stage, and are empowered to ask for the services they require.
- raise awareness of the eligibility criteria and have equal access to services regardless of age, gender, disability, class, race, culture or sexual orientation.
- involve them in planning and determining the types of services available.
- invite them to take part in the evaluation of services.
- involve them in decision-making about their needs and consulted about preferences for services

The key outcomes for Carers that we wish to achieve are set out in the action plan that supports this strategy.

## 5. What has been achieved in Rotherham?

Below is a summary of actions which have been achieved over the last twelve months:

### 5.1 Information for Carers

Identified Improvements	Achievement	Impact
To revise the Carers' Handbook and develop a borough wide distribution strategy.	The Carers Handbook has been updated and distributed widely across the borough.	Carers now have easy access to current information and signposts to supportive initiatives across the borough.
To improve publicity and training to find hidden Carers including identification of Carers within each GP surgery.	An increasing number of GP Practices have developed methods of identifying Carers, establishing confidential registers and providing information.	Carers are better informed about support services and are consulted on how their practices can improve support to meet their needs

Identified Improvements	Achievement	Impact
Raise Carer awareness of services which are available outside normal working hours.	The newly established Carers Information Centre and the Carers Handbook provides this information. A new Carers Emergency Scheme has also been established.	Carers are able to drop in to the centre for information and advice from staff and 6 trained volunteers. Additionally the Carers Emergency Scheme offers Carers piece of mind if they are ever involved in an accident or need to deal with an emergency.
Develop further opportunities for Carer consultation and involvement to enable it to be embedded into service delivery.	Various events have taken place during National Carers Week, Carers Rights Day, Citizen's Juries etc. Questionnaires have been used for specific minority groups and the Carer registration form adapted to identify Carers who want to be actively involved in service development. Special attention has been paid to hidden Carers, Carers from BME communities and young Carers.	Carers have influenced how the Local Authority and Health partners have developed services and initiatives. For example the expansion of training programmes to assist Carers in their caring role or improve their wellbeing such as stress management and assertiveness skills.
Improve quality management information to enable improved service planning.	Carers Assessment forms have been updated and piloted which includes a scoring system to enable identification of areas of concern and also allows comparisons and evaluation of any progress made on an annual review. The Carers Register has been revised and the methods of recording have been improved.	Adult Social Services are more aware of the number and needs of Carers because of the information gained from Carers. This information will be used in planning provision for Carers services.

Identified Improvements	Achievement	Impact
Continue Carer Awareness training with multi-agency staff	Carers Awareness training has been designed and delivered quarterly to staff across health and social care services. These sessions include Carers themselves where they are given the opportunity to inform staff first hand how caring can affect someone's life.	Workers are better informed on how to support Carers. The feedback from individuals has indicated that they are more aware of voluntary agencies that support Carers and have valued the input from Carers who are involved in the delivery of that training.

## 5.2 Support for Carers

Identified Improvements	Achievement	Impact
To develop the quality of representation of Carers on forums by offering training and support.	Various training events have been delivered to improve Carers' skills and knowledge in representing Carers' views and recommendations. Forty people have attended the Assertiveness courses.	Carers are more aware and more able to influence change. One Carer said that they are now more confident to contribute to consultation events. A representative from the Carers Forum has offered to feed concerns and recommendation to the Scrutiny Panel.
To further develop existing council policies to support Carers in employment.	Carers Leads have been identified in each Directorate, the PCT and the Hospital Trust to develop and or enhance existing policies to certify they are sensitive to Carers needs.	Awareness has been raised informing staff who are Carers that they can take advantage of flexible working, working from home and unpaid time off to look after dependents.



Identified Improvements	Achievement	Impact
Explore pre-crisis and emergency provision for Carers including peer support	<p>The Caring for Carers Scheme has established a Wellbeing Group which promotes peer support through the form of regular meeting to discuss issues that they have experienced, undertaken social activities to promote wellbeing and also have a ring around scheme that provides support.</p> <p>A Carers Emergency Scheme has been developed across Rotherham that assists Carers in the development of an individualised emergency plan and where appropriate offers access to home based support for up to 48 hours.</p>	Carers can now have emergency cover to deal with a crisis. Carers from the Wellbeing Group are able to offer emotional and practical support to other Carers
Identify and deliver appropriate and accessible training for Carers	Carers have been consulted on their training needs and a programme of events was developed and delivered. These included "What is Dementia", Stress Management, Assertiveness skills, Managing continence, Adult Protection Policy & Procedure and The Expert Carer programme.	Carers are more able to manage their caring role, look after their own wellbeing and have the confidence to access services, challenge decisions etc. As well as improving her own caring role one Carer said that she now felt able to attend collage to undertake an I.T. course.

Identified Improvements	Achievement	Impact
Examine funding and submit bids to finance a Carers Resource Centre.	<p>A Carers Information Centre has been established in partnership with Rotherham Advice &amp; Information Network(RAIN) and funding has secured from the Carers Grant.</p> <p>The centre is now staffed by Carers Forum staff and 7 volunteers for whom RAIN has provided induction and accredited training in Essential People Skills and Introduction to Mentoring This resulted in them gaining a NOCN level 2 accreditation.</p>	An increasing number of Carers are informed and supported via the centre, many of whom are considered 'hidden' or 'hard to reach' Carers
Establish a nominated lead in each Programme Area and partner organisations to ensure the implementation of the Carer (Equal Opportunities) Act, 2004.	A nominated lead in each Directorate, the PCT and the Hospital Trust meet on a regular basis to improve support for Carers.	<p>Carers issues are now considered across all services and receive improved, integrated &amp; co-ordinated services.</p> <p>The group are currently developing actions which will be incorporated into the new strategy.</p>
Further develop community based services for Black & Minority Ethnic Carers	A consultation exercise has been undertaken to establish how we improve support for Carers.	Carers from the Black and Minority communities have been added to the Carers Register, informed of services and events and advised on how to request an assessment

Identified Improvements	Achievement	Impact
Improve methods of identifying hidden Carers	Information events and the Carers Information Centre are invaluable at identifying hidden Carers. More than 500 Carers have accessed information and received advice from the drop-in sessions over the last year, 11% of these were from the BME community. Carers Corners have also been established in some G.P. practices which promotes identification and access to relevant support.	An increasing number of Carers have been identified, assessed and supported via the Carers information centre, information events and the development of the Emergency Scheme
Explore the impact and feasibility of extending the Mental Health Carer Support Worker initiative to other service areas	A POPPS bid was submitted to extend the Carer support worker initiative however this was unsuccessful.	Alternative funding streams are still being sort.

### 5.3 Care for Carers

Identified Improvements	Achievement	Impact
Improve waiting time for initial assessment and reviews.	There has been a 57% increase in the number of Carers assessments and reviews undertaken during 2007/8	Double the number of Carers are now in receipt of support services.
Improve the single assessment process for Carers	It is proposed to introduce Person Held Records have been piloted and are about to be introduced across the borough which improves the single assessment process by having a single point of storage for information recording in a service users home including a communication log.	The initiative streamlines the care package and improves communication. A section within the record enables Carers to provide information and ask questions with agencies easily should they not be present at the time of the professionals visit.

Identified Improvements	Achievement	Impact
Continue to raise awareness about Direct Payments for Carers to enable more empowered control.	Information about Direct Payments is always promoted at information events, discussed at Carers meetings and included in newsletters. Employer Training Courses have also been designed and delivered to assist Carers in administering Direct Payments.	Carers have more control over the type of support they receive. For example, funding for personal assistants to provide respite and also transport cost to enable a Carer to visit the cared for person who is sustaining a university course.
Develop "Carer friendly" service delivery to enable delivery outside normal hours.	Initiatives have been introduced to assist Carers in accessing services out of hours. For example Housing Options , Choose and Book for hospital appointments and the Adaptations team will visit outside traditional working hours if required. There have been changes to the method of payment for service which now offer direct debit simplifying the process.	Enables Carers to attend appointments, meetings etc. with the cared for person outside normal hours whilst juggling caring with other commitments such as employment or other caring responsibilities.

## 6. Action Plan for 2008

Neighbourhoods and Adult Services has worked with other Directorates within the local authority, the PCT, Rotherham District Hospital Trust and voluntary organisations to plan improvements for Carers for the coming year 2008/09.

The following initiatives and milestone dates have emerged and been agreed through consultation with all partners agencies and Carers.

### 6.1 Information for Carers

The Local Authority, Health Services and the voluntary sector will endeavour to provide information to Carers that is accurate, accessible, timely, jargon free and available in appropriate formats. Improvements will be made over the next year through:

	<b>Milestone Date</b>	<b>Impact</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refresh, publish and distribute the Carers Handbook.</li> </ul>	April 2008	Provide Carers with up to date information and advice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase Carer awareness of the discounts/ concessions that are available for leisure activities.</li> </ul>	April 2008	Encourage more Carers to take up leisure activities and improve their wellbeing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A revised Direct Payment leaflet will be produced and distributed specifically for Young Carers.</li> </ul>	May 2008	Increase in number of Young Carers who use Direct Payments to meet their individual needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Hospital Trust discharge publication "Leaving Hospital" booklet will be revised to include information for Carers.</li> </ul>	June 2008	Provide Carers with up to date information and advice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Local Authority Human Resources Section will produce a Managers Briefing to remind managers of policies and procedures for supporting Carers who work.</li> </ul>	August 2008	Increased staff awareness and Carers issues taken into account during the creation/revision of relevant policy and procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Neighbourhood Partnership Manager will attend the Carers Forum to inform Carers how they can influence change in their neighbourhood.</li> </ul>	September 2008	Increased participation of Carers in influencing their neighbourhood

	<b>Milestone Date</b>	<b>Impact</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PCT will provide guidance to Carers who will be involved in administering medication to services users.</li> </ul>	November 2008	Increase carers skills that will reduce the risk of administering medication incorrectly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Posters and leaflets will be produced and widely advertised in schools, youth centres, school councils, and youth cabinets to raise awareness of the Young Carers Project</li> </ul>	November 2008	Increase recognition amongst Young Carers and their access to appropriate support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Older People's community based services will refresh the information for Carers.</li> </ul>	November 2008	Provide Carers with up to date information and advice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Learning Disability database will be updated to ensure Carers receive relevant information</li> </ul>	November 2008	Provide Carers with up to date and appropriate information and advice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend the range of services of the Carers Information Centre.</li> </ul>	December 2008	The centre will have increased activity levels supporting the identified needs of Carers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2010 Rotherham will develop a list of people who are Carers to inform them of support services available and to invite to consultation events.</li> </ul>	December 2008	Provide Carers with up to date and appropriate information and provide them with an opportunity to improve services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New leaflets promoting the Carers support service in Mental Health will be produced and distributed</li> </ul>	December 2008	Provide Carers with up to date and appropriate information and advice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PCT will undertake a mystery shopping exercise to establish how well GPs support Carers.</li> </ul>	December 2008	Findings will lead to service improvements in GP surgeries.

	Milestone Date	Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PCT will continue to support information events such as Carers Week, and Carers Rights Day, in terms of providing information, staff and financial resources to identify hidden Carers.</li> </ul>	December 2008	Increase the identification of hidden Carers across the borough
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Re-tender the Carers Forum Service Level Agreement to incorporating the provision of a Carers information centre.</li> </ul>	January 2009	Secure enhanced service provision to meet future demands
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A guide for Carers on how to deal with bogus callers will be distributed to reduce the fear of crime.</li> </ul>	February 2009	The advice will provide reassurance and promote safety in the home
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Key Choices Letting Scheme will target Carers at road shows and work with the Carers Forum during National Carers Week and promote the Carers Register.</li> </ul>	March 2009	Increase number of Carers receiving appropriate advice and information

## 6.2 Support for Carers

Carers very often do not recognise themselves as a 'Carer'. They see themselves as a partner, relative or friend looking after someone with a disability or illness or an older person

Health and Social Care services will work in partnership with other agencies to recognise the value of the caring role and ensure that Carers themselves understand the important role they play in our society. Improvements will be made over the next year through:

	Milestone Date	Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and promote training around accessing and managing Direct Payments will be provided for Carers.</li> </ul>	April 2008	Increased awareness and accessibility of Direct Payments to provide services to meet individual needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Children's Disability Team will be moving to a new worksite in order to complete the integration of services for Children with Special Needs.</li> </ul>	April 2008	Carers receive a more co-ordinated package of support

	<b>Milestone Date</b>	<b>Impact</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carers will be included in the new Single Equality Scheme</li> </ul>	April 2008	Increased fairness of access to services, employment, etc. for Carers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Local Authority monitoring form, which monitors ethnicity and gender, will now include Carers.</li> </ul>	May 2008	Increased analysis can be undertaken to establish the satisfaction of Carers with services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to deliver the training for Carers after consulting with them on their training needs.</li> </ul>	June 2008	Carers skills will be enhanced and able to care for longer should the choose to
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate Carers' needs into the equalities and social inclusion agenda.</li> </ul>	September 2008	Highlight the profile of Carers needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and support Carers by developing Carer sensitive employment policies.</li> </ul>	September 2008	Encourage Carers to remain in the workforce or return to employment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a Welcome Pack for Young Carers from all backgrounds.</li> </ul>	September 2008	Provide Young Carers with specialist advice and information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A stakeholder conference to feed back on new national developments and develop a new multi-agency strategy for Carers in Rotherham.</li> </ul>	October 2008	The event with raise local concerns based on the national guidance and challenge how services will be required to change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the amount of 1:1 support and the number of assessments and reviews for individuals caring for someone with Mental Health problems.</li> </ul>	October 2008	Provide Carers with essential and timely advice and support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carers of people with a learning disability will be invited to monthly meetings at all day centres.</li> </ul>	November 2008	Involvement of Carers in the service design and delivery at the centres



	<b>Milestone Date</b>	<b>Impact</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Equality Impact Assessment will place more emphasis on ensuring that Carers' needs are taken into consideration when developing strategies and policies.</li> </ul>	December 2008	Policy and strategies will take into consideration the needs of Carers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key Choices will consider methods of improving support and accommodation for Carers from other Local Authorities.</li> </ul>	December 2008	Carers will receive and enhanced service tailored to their identified need
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2010 Rotherham Ltd, will ensure that Carers of someone with a disability or illness will be contacted before a home visit if requested to.</li> </ul>	December 2008	Increased contact will allow services to be tailored to a Carers needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rotherham Borough Council's Human Resources Section will review current policies and procedures for Carers for special leave, career breaks, time off for dependents, right to apply for flexible working, etc. and advise local businesses.</li> </ul>	December 2008	Encourage Carers to remain in the workforce or return to employment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and deliver the accredited City and Guilds Learning for Living course.</li> </ul>	January 2009	The training undertaken will increase Carers confidence and ability to cope with the caring role
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information will be provided to hospital staff to enable them to identify and respond to Carers' needs.</li> </ul>	January 2009	Increased awareness will provide increased customer care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the Multi-agency Carers Awareness training continues to encourage good practice in assessing Carers' needs.</li> </ul>	February 2009	Improved assessments will lead to appropriate services being engaged to assist Carers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the take up of the Carers Emergency Scheme.</li> </ul>	March 2009	Increased peace of mind for Carers who sign up to the scheme

	<b>Milestone Date</b>	<b>Impact</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examine the feasibility extending the Carer Support Service to all service areas.</li> </ul>	March 2009	Research will provide the evidence to apply for funding and support to expand the service
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PCT will extend and develop the Expert Carer Programme.</li> </ul>	March 2009	More Carers will learn new skills that can enhance their caring role
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each Area Assembly will ensure that Carers are consulted on their needs via the Carers Forum.</li> </ul>	March 2009	Carers will have an increased opportunity to influence their local area

### 6.3 Care for Carers

Carers need breaks from caring and these will be identified through conducting and reviewing Carer assessments. It is important that carers are provided with the opportunity to maintain their own health, ability to work and social wellbeing. Improvements will be made over the next year through the actions below:

<b>Care for Carers</b>	<b>Milestone Date</b>	<b>Impact</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An individual Budgets Project will be promoted to Carers.</li> </ul>	April 2008	Increase the number of Carers will have access to alternative service provision that may better suit their individual need
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop the Expert Carer Programme to assist Carers in looking after their own health and wellbeing.</li> </ul>	June 2008	Increase self confidence and assertiveness of Carers to take control of their own needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of patient documentation to ensure that patients who are Carers are identified, recorded and supported.</li> </ul>	July 2008	Assess to support and treatment should be given priority due to their essential caring role

Care for Carers	Milestone Date	Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve hospital discharge procedures.</li> </ul>	August 2008	Better advice and support given at the point of discharge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that Carers are offered a Carers Assessment and their needs reviewed annually.</li> </ul>	September 2008	Increased awareness of carers current needs which will inform service design and activity levels
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launch a support group for men who look after someone with a Mental Health problem to mirror the existing one for women.</li> </ul>	September 2008	Offer male Carers the same level of support currently received by women
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examine the feasibility and pilot shared care arrangements using Direct Payments</li> </ul>	September 2008	Increased efficiency in the use of Direct Payment funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase respite care/peer support for Carers.</li> </ul>	October 2008	Enable carers to collectively offer support to each other and learn from one and others experiences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the number of young Carers accessing the Direct Payments service.</li> </ul>	December 2008	More Young Carers utilising the flexibility of alternative service provision
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NHS Trust will work with the Carers Forum to identify issues that need to be addressed by hospital staff.</li> </ul>	December 2008	Increased levels of satisfaction with hospital services.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider with partner organisations the development of workplace Carers' groups.</li> </ul>	December 2008	Peer support from fellow colleagues who can share their experiences and provide support within a secure environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the number of Carers using Direct Payments and individualised budgets to arrange their own tailored care.</li> </ul>	March 2009	Increased flexibility of services that meet individual needs and promote social enterprise in the voluntary sector

## 7. What Happens Next?

The Government has now finished the most far reaching consultation ever undertaken with Carers. The recommendations will inform the revision of the National Strategy for Carers.

The Department of Health has established a dedicated website and held nationwide consultation events to engage Carers in debate about “what would make a positive difference to your life as a Carer”.

Initiatives undertaken include:

- An online and paper based “ideas tree” for Adult Carers.
- A series of 9 regional events with 50 Adult Carers at each.
- A toolkit to enable local groups to run consultation events which will enable them to submit ideas for those for whom access to the web might pose problems.
- Listening to young Carers at the Young Carers’ festival.
- A paper based activity pack to generate ideas on how to improve Young Carers’ lives.
- Discussion sessions and bulletin boards were conducted on the Princess Royal Trust for Carers website [www.youngCarers.net](http://www.youngCarers.net) to engage your Carers further.

Many Carers from Rotherham have attended events, commented on the website and completed surveys throughout this process. The process finished in November 2007 and all Carers’ comments and recommendations are currently being analysed and will have considerable influence on the National Carers Strategy which is now due to be published in the summer of 2008.

Neighbourhoods and Adult Services will use the detail of this strategy to influence the new Rotherham Carers Strategy for 2008-2013.

An extensive programme of local consultation will be undertaken facilitated jointly between health and social care. We will continue to consult and involve Carers throughout the process.

## Appendix 1: Policy Context

The current national policy framework for Health and Social Care is outlined below. It provides the background to the specific guidance relating to Carers.

- Community Care White Paper: Caring for People 1989 (Department of Health)
- The Government's response to the Education and Skills Select Committee's ninth report of session 2004-05: every child matters
- Modernising Social Services 1999 (Department of Health)
- NHS Plan 2000 (Department of Health)
- National Service Framework - Mental Health 1999 (Department of Health)
- National Service Framework – Older People 2000 (Department of Health)
- Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families 2001 (Department of Health, Department for Education and Employment, Home Office)
- Valuing People: A New Strategy for Learning Disability for the 21st Century 2001 (Department of Health)
- National Care Standards Commission April 2002 (Care Standards Act 2000 – Department of Health)
- Fair Access to Care Services 2002 (Department of Health)
- Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services
- The New Deal for Carers
- A New Outcomes Framework for Performance Assessment of Adult Social Care: Council Social Care Inspection

## National Legislative Context

- The Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004
- Disabled Persons Act 1986
- The Children Act 1989
- Carers (Recognition & Services) Act 1995
- Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000
- The Amendments to the Mental Health Act 1983
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- The Disabled Person (Services and Representation) Act 1986
- The Health and Social Security Amendment Act 1983