

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO MEMBERS

<b>1</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Adult Social Care</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>11th February, 2013</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Rotherham's Carers Charter and Joint Action Plan</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Resources</b>

### **5. Summary**

Current changes to the NHS architecture and legal framework (Draft Care and Support Bill 2012) means we need to review our current strategy in Rotherham to ensure we are able to meet the requirements expected of us, and that we continue to deliver the best possible outcomes for carers. Rotherham Council and the Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group agreed a draft Carers Charter in 2012, which demonstrated a joint commitment to deliver and improve services for all carers in Rotherham.

The Charter has been used to develop a Joint Action Plan for Carers, which puts the commitments into action and shows what will be delivered for carers over the next 3 years.

This report presents the Rotherham Carers Charter and Joint Action Plan for formal approval before being published and implemented in April 2013.

### **6. Recommendations**

- **To consider and approve the Charter and Action Plan**

## **7. Proposals and details**

### ***Why we need a new plan***

Recent and forthcoming changes to the NHS architecture and legal framework outlined in the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and Draft Care and Support Bill 2012, has meant we need to review our current strategy in Rotherham to ensure we are able to meet the requirements expected of us, and that we continue to deliver the best possible outcomes for carers.

Rotherham has also, through the local Health and Wellbeing Board, made a commitment to improve the health of all Rotherham people and reduce health inequalities through the production of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2012-15. This strategy is a high-level framework which will need to be supported by a range of commissioning priorities and action plans which sit underneath. These plans will need to demonstrate how specific services and agencies will help us achieve the overall vision for improving health and wellbeing in Rotherham. The Carers' Charter and Joint Action Plan will form part of this implementation through key actions that relate directly to improving the health and wellbeing of all our carers.

### ***Review of previous priorities and consultations***

A review of the previous Carers' Strategy (2008 to 2011) was undertaken in 2012, involving a wide range of internal and external stakeholders who contributed information to evaluate the progress made against each of the previous carers' objectives. This activity identified many positive achievements and outcomes for adult and young carers across Rotherham. However it also highlighted a number of gaps and areas which required continued development, which would need to be considered in a future plan.

Along with this review, an analysis of the outcomes of 30 consultation exercises which took place with adult and young carers between 2009 and 2011 was also undertaken. This analysis informed the drafting of the Rotherham Carers Charter and development of a set of strategic priorities for carers. The Charter demonstrates a joint commitment by RMBC and Rotherham Clinical Commissioning group to deliver and improve services for all carers in Rotherham and using the consultation analysis ensured the Charter was based on the views and needs of Rotherham carers. Consultation took place on the Charter, including a set of strategic priorities, during August to September 2012 with the public and carer representative groups. The Charter was also approved through the CCG and used to demonstrate local action being taken for carers as part of their authorisation process.

The review of the previous strategy and responses to consultation activity supported further work undertaken by a group of RMBC and NHS officers in putting together the Joint Action Plan.

### ***Consulting on the action plan***

The draft Joint Action Plan went out to further consultation with a range of groups including carer representative groups, voluntary and community sector organisations, and key stakeholders throughout December and January.

The general consensus from consultation responses was that the priorities and actions set out in the plan were the right ones to deliver positive change and appropriate services for carers locally. The responses also highlighted a number of gaps which were subsequently built into the plan.

A consultation exercise with voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations also highlighted the important and key role that the voluntary sector plays in supporting carers, and looked at how organisations were able to support delivery of the action plan. The outcomes of this exercise have been used to further develop specific actions within the plan, with a particular focus on the role of the VCS working with GPs through the CCG.

The Actions Plan presented with this report is the result of collaborative working between the council and NHS Rotherham and demonstrates actions that the council and NHS will commit to achieving over the next 3 years. Although the action plan is owned jointly by the council and NHS; who will be accountable for its success, a range of key partners, such as voluntary and community sector organisations and Job Centre Plus, will play a crucial role in helping to deliver the actions.

## **8. Finance**

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

## **9 Risks and Uncertainties**

With the current changes to the NHS structure and legal framework, and resources being reduced across all agencies, it will be important to have a clear, jointly agreed plan for the commissioning and effective delivery of carers services in Rotherham.

Having an appropriate plan in place from April 2013 will also ensure we are best placed to meet the requirements of us set out in the Health and Social Care Act, and associated legislation being developed through the Care and Support Bill.

## **10 Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

The contents of this report refer to the overall strategy for carers in Rotherham, which has been developed in response to new local and national policy drivers.

## **11 Background Papers and Consultation**

Health and Social Care Act 2012

Draft Care and Support Bill 2012

Rotherham Carers Charter 2013 (attached)

Rotherham's Joint Action Plan for Carers 2013 – 2016 (attached)

## **12 Contacts**

Shona McFarlane  
Director of Health and Wellbeing, NAS  
[Shone.mcfarlane@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Shone.mcfarlane@rotherham.gov.uk)

Kate Green  
Policy Officer, Resources  
[kate.green@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:kate.green@rotherham.gov.uk)