

Cabinet's Response to Scrutiny Review Support for Carers

Recommendation	Cabinet Decision <i>(Accepted/ Rejected/Deferred)</i>	Cabinet Response <i>(detailing proposed action if accepted, rationale for rejection, and why and when issue will be reconsidered if deferred)</i>	Officer Responsible	Action by (Date)
1) That NHS England, Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group and RMBC work within GPS to ensure that the first line of support aims to increase the number of carers identified.	Accepted	Cabinet accepts this recommendation. This recommendation has been added to the carers' action plan, which is implemented by a multi-agency steering group. It will also be addressed as part of the Care Act Steering Board Plan.	S McFarlane	30/09/14
2) The partners should consider whether professionals should work on the presumption that the close family member or friend as a carers and ask questions to determine if this is the case.	Accepted	Cabinet accepts this recommendation. This recommendation is being explored by the Carers' Steering Group. It is standard practice for social care staff and other professionals to seek to identify caring status. The steering group is considering how this could be extended to other professional groups in a more formal way.	S Farragher	31/10/14
3) That Rotherham Council investigates further with the Advice in Rotherham partnership (AiR) and the Department of Work and Pensions, what specific information carers need to access benefits that are available to them. This may also help to identify more carers.	Accepted	Cabinet accepts that this is a useful proposal, and notes that as part of the Council's corporate plan improve the local economy and support the most vulnerable, NAS have been working closely with Age UK to maximise uptake of Attendance Allowance, affording people with disabilities and other people the recourse to enable them to purchase services and activities that support their continued ability to live independently for longer, with the potential to reduce dependence on family and formal services.	L Dabell	September 2014
4) That NHS England, Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group and Rotherham Council, work with their VCS and other partners to create the carers pathway of support; an integrated, multi-agency response to the needs of carers, using carers assessments and crucially the allocation of a "buddy" or "lead worker" to champion their individual needs. This lead worker should, where possible, come from the most appropriate agency identified for individual needs.	Accepted	Cabinet accepts this proposal which has been added to the Carers' Action Plan to seek ways to jointly commission a coherent and co-ordinated response to the need for clear information and advice for carers. Connect to Support, the online e-market place already information targeted at carers. Work is underway as part of the revised RMBC website to develop a virtual Carers' Corner which will become a one stop advice and information resource for carers and professionals.	S Farragher	30/10/14

Recommendation	Cabinet Decision <i>(Accepted/ Rejected/Deferred)</i>	Cabinet Response <i>(detailing proposed action if accepted, rationale for rejection, and why and when issue will be reconsidered if deferred)</i>	Officer Responsible	Action by (Date)
5) That Rotherham Council considers via its review of services to carers, and in light of the new requirements imposed by the Care Bill, reconfiguring its advice and information offer for Carers including; Assessment Direct, Connect 2 Support, Carers Corner and outreach services, to ensure that flexible support is offered within existing resources.	Accepted	Cabinet accepts this recommendation and a report on the review of Carers' Corner will be presented to Cabinet Member Adult Social Care for consideration and agreement.	S Farragher	31/05/14
6) That the "triangle of care" presented by RDaSH be considered as part of this process as something that could be adapted and rolled out to all partners providing support to carers.	Accepted	Cabinet accepts this recommendation. The Carers Steering Group has been asked to review the "triangle of care" approach to determine its suitability or adaptability for other settings.	S Farragher	31/07/14
7) That Rotherham Council reviews its carers assessment tool in the light of the Care Bill to ensure it is fit for purpose. This should involve considering whether it could be less onerous. The correct title of the document "Carer's needs form and care plan" should be used by partners to reflect that it is an enabling process rather than an "assessment".	Accepted	Cabinet accepts this recommendation. The Regulations that will support the implementation of the Care Act are due to be produced in October 2014. These will guide and shape the changes that are needed to the Carers' needs form and care plan. The changes will be produced in consultation with carers, the Carers' Steering Group and other stakeholders.	S McFarlane	01/04/14
8) That Rotherham Council looks to set more stretching targets for carers assessments and regular (annual) reviews.	Accepted	Cabinet accepts this recommendation. In 2013/14 we carried out 2673 carers' assessments, an increase of 2% in year. Performance on carers' assessments was reviewed in 2013/14 and a stretch target set. Around 93% of service users and carers have been reviewed in the last 12 months – this continues to be one of the best performances in the country, we are ranked second best in the country. We have carried out more annual reviews across all of assessment and care management than in 2012/13. Almost 7000 reviews were completed, 100 more than last year. Performance targets will be reviewed in light of the 2013/14 outturn and suitably stretching targets will be set.	M Cox	02/06/14

Recommendation	Cabinet Decision <i>(Accepted/ Rejected/Deferred)</i>	Cabinet Response <i>(detailing proposed action if accepted, rationale for rejection, and why and when issue will be reconsidered if deferred)</i>	Officer Responsible	Action by (Date)
9) That steps are taken to ensure that the Joint Action Plan for Carers meets the recommendations of this review and is more accountable in terms of its delivery, seeking to influence external partners accordingly.	Accepted	Cabinet accepts this proposal and a refreshed carers' action plan will be produced by the multi-agency working group which will take account of the recommendations outlined in the Scrutiny Review.	S Farragher	31/07/14
10) Whilst the review group has sought to make recommendations that can be accommodated within existing resources it also recognises that there is a strong case for further investment in this sector, in line with the prevention and early intervention agenda. It therefore recommends that the allocation of resources to carers (including the Better Care Fund) is reviewed to demonstrate how the changes to services proposed within this review are to be achieved.	Accepted	Cabinet accepts this proposal. The Better Care Fund Plan was agreed by Health and Wellbeing Board in April 2014. It contains an action to review existing investment in Carers' services.	J Parkin	30/10/14
11) Although outside the original scope, the review group recognised the important role public, private and third sector employers, play in providing flexible employment conditions for carers and therefore recommend that the findings of this review are shared with partners as widely as possible. In addition they reaffirmed the commitment in the Carer's Charter to actively promote flexible and supportive employment policies that benefit carers.	Accepted	<p>Cabinet welcomes this proposal.</p> <p>The Council and CCG are proactive employers with a range of schemes and opportunities that seek to offer support to staff members who have caring responsibilities. These are available to all staff and managers and are promoted through training, induction and refresher programmes.</p> <p>Cabinet welcomes this proposal. The Carers' Charter will be reviewed and refreshed within each partner organisation which will reaffirm this commitment.</p>	P Howe (HR)	Ongoing