

Carers Consultative Group
Thursday 21st April 2011
Minutes

Present Peter Pinfield (chair), Keith Hoare (minutes), Wendy Ingles, Ray Eades, Ian Hughes, Roy Davies, Rebekah Brown, Helen Toney, Joan Muir, Carole Cumino, Rachel Fowler, Jacky Nicholson, Juliet Lyndle, Rani Virk, Emma Mackey, Chris Strangwood, Pat Fisher

Apologies Rachel Officer, Ann Batchelor, Ann Hart, Sue Pidduck, Sue Eltagouri, Mike Dutfield, Jane Longmore, Mel Rayson, Annette Wright, Sarah Taylor, Elaine Carolan and Helen Garfield

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTIONS
<p>1. Minutes & Matters Arising 17th January 2011</p>	<p>The minutes were agreed.</p> <p>Matters Arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Carers Charter proposals – circulated to group previously (ii) Carer Outcomes – circulated to service providers (iii) Remit of Healthwatch – health and social care (iv) Engaging GP Commissioning Consortia – they have advised they cannot engage at present (v) Health and Social Care Partnership Board – Keith reported back on a positive meeting that was followed dup with another meeting with Richard Harling the Director of Public Health who planned to engage further on development of Healthwatch and new Health and Wellbeing Board (vi) Joint work with Libraries and Adult Learning – Rachel Fowler confirmed this was underway and was proving effective (vii) Joint Commissioning Group report – to be deferred till later in the year pending more information on impact of new strategy 	

2. Fairer Charging Policy Consultation

(Sue Alexander)

See attached presentation slides.

Sue went through the slides explaining that this is a consultation exercise on proposals to ensure consistency of charging for social care services between those holding personal budget and those in receipt of traditionally funded social care. It only applies to home/community based services, and is not relevant to residential services and it is estimated that 60% of current service users will not be affected.

The following points / questions were raised:

- (i) the impact for carers is that service users may well not pay for any day care/support services that enable them to take a break
- (ii) concern is that people save for old age and are then penalised
- (iii) does day care exclude transport costs?
 - yes, so people would have to meet these costs as well
- (iv) there are extra costs involved in informal caring so any extra payments for statutory services will be an extra burden
- (v) there is a contradiction with the launch of a new Carer Strategy and the potential impact of this policy on impact on carers
- (vi) people will turn their back on day care/meals etc and do their own thing
- (vii) concern over plan to have 100% use of direct debits – due to lack of trust and fact they could result in people getting into debt
- (viii) what about Pay Zone cards for use in local shops - to avoid 100% use of direct debits cheques and phone payment should be options

	<p>(ix) need for Council to support development of new day opportunities for people as an alternative to day care</p> <p>(x) day centres could become unviable and be closed affecting all who use them</p>	
<p>3. Personal Assistants Register (Deborah Redman)</p>	<p>See <u>attached</u> presentation slides.</p> <p>Debbie went through her presentation and the following points / questions were raised:</p> <p>(i) is this internet only ?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we are working with Penderels Trust to help people access the service on line, and the Hubs can be used to access the site <p>(ii) Can self funders use the service ?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • yes <p>(iii) Why can't relatives who are resident be paid for the care they provide?</p>	
<p>4. 2011/12 Carers Budget</p>	<p>Keith ran through the budget for 2011/12 and the group was happy with this.</p> <p>See <u>attached</u> updated version.</p>	
<p>5. Use of Extra NHS Worcestershire Funding</p>	<p>Keith explained plans for use of extra 500,000 from NHS Worcestershire – expansion of GP Carer Support Worker scheme and associated increased funding of flexible breaks and CAW service, and the group were happy with these.</p>	

6. Progress Report	<p>Keith ran through key developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 new Hospital Carer Support Workers in post • 2 new Learning Disability Older Carer Support Workers in post • Bereavement Support service out for tender (via NHS Worcestershire) • Options being explored for development of Rapid Response Carers Re-ablement Training programme • Ideas for Annual Report to be discussed at next meeting • Proposed Worcestershire Carers Survey in 2011 needs to be delayed pending decision by Government to delay their national Carer Survey till 2012 • Article planned for Caring News to encourage more carers to join sub groups and main Carers Consultative Group 	
7. Sub Group Updates	<p>Agreed it would be useful to produce a standard template for groups to fill in the what, why, who and when for each sub group that they could share with interested partners.</p> <p>We also agreed to give just verbal feedback at meetings.</p>	Keith Hoare
8. AOB	<p>(i) concessionary bus fares - changes will mean no access to buses before 9:30 am, and Ray Eades urged all to respond to the consultation exercise</p>	
9. Next Meeting	<p>Wednesday 13th July, 10.30-12.30, Great Malvern Room at County Hall</p>	