

Agenda item:

[No.]

Cabinet

On 16 June 2009

Report Title: Haringey Adult Carers Strategy 2009-2014

Report of **Mun Thong Phung**
Director
Adult, Culture and Community Services

Signed :

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Wards(s) affected:

All

Report for:

Non Key Decision

1. Purpose of the report

1.1. The purpose of this report is to set out the Haringey Strategic Partnership's (HSP) strategy for improving support for unpaid adult carers in the borough for the period 2009-2014, with an accompanying delivery plan covering 2009-2012.

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member

2.1 I am happy for the report to proceed and ask that Members note that the Adult Carers Strategy 2009-2014:

- Updates the previous Haringey Carers Strategy 2005-2008 for supporting unpaid carers
- Has been widely consulted on and reflects carers' priorities expressed in survey responses, working groups and a well-attended stakeholder event
- Is a multi-agency strategy , and will deliver against the Well-being Strategic Framework
- Will be owned by all the partners and be kept live and outcome-focussed by the 19 carer members of the re-constituted Carers Partnership Board

3 State link(s) with Council Plan Priorities and actions and /or other Strategies:

3.1 The aim of this HSP strategy is to improve support and recognition for Haringey's unpaid carers and to tackle the social exclusion and unequal opportunities which carers experience. Carers *should* be able to have a life of their own alongside their caring role.

3.2 The Strategy is comprehensive and holistic and therefore links with the following Haringey Council Plan key priorities 2007-2010:

- *Encouraging lifetime well being at home, work, play and learning*
- *Promoting independent living while supporting adults and children when needed*
- *Delivering excellent, customer focused, cost effective services*

3.3 It also links with Sustainable Community Strategy priorities and the Well-being Strategic Framework outcomes. These links are set out in Section 4.2.1 of the Haringey Carers Strategy 2009-2014.

3.4. HSP membership includes representatives from:

- Haringey Council
- Metropolitan Police
- NHS Haringey
- Job Centre Plus
- Local Businesses
- New Deal for Communities
- College of North East London (CONEL)
- Middlesex University
- Haringey Association of Voluntary and Community Organisations (HAVCO)
- Community Empowerment Network
- Race Equality Joint Consultative Council
- Faith Communities
- Greater London Authority (GLA)
- Members of Parliament
- Registered Social Landlords

The attached delivery plan outlines which organisations will have a lead in each of the key initiatives.

4 Recommendations

4.1 That Cabinet endorse and approve the revised Haringey Adult Carers Strategy 2009-2014 and its accompanying delivery plan to enable carers to achieve a balance between their caring responsibilities and a life outside caring.

5 Reason for recommendation(s)

5.1 Unpaid carers are the cornerstone of the UK's health and social care system. The basic saving to the NHS, social services, and other statutory bodies resulting from the support provided by carers in the UK is in excess of £87 billion per year.

5.2 The cost of replacing carers' unpaid support in Haringey alone is calculated at £236.5 million per year.

5.3 In 2004 carers were described as "one of the most socially excluded groups of people-for whom the Government's inclusion policy appears (to date) to have failed" (Office of Deputy Prime Minister). As a whole social grouping, carers are disadvantaged and long term carers, in particular, suffer from discrimination and economic and social exclusion.

5.4 The issue of economic and social injustice has implications for the future provision of social care- the supply of and demand for carers. In consequence of an ageing population, by 2037 the number of carers is set to increase by around 60% or an extra 3.4 million carers. Yet the UK economy also needs more people to work for longer. Changes in family formation, more lone parent families, increasing geographical mobility within families combined with the economic necessity of paid employment could result in fewer people being available- able and willing- to be carers.

5.5 Carers are also more likely than the general population to be in poorer health as physical and mental health problems can and do accompany caring.

5.5 There are powerful arguments for improving support for carers if carers are to continue to provide the support they do

6 Other options considered

6.1 Not applicable

7 Summary

7.1 The Haringey Adult Carers Strategy 2009-2014 revises and updates the Carers Strategy launched in 2005. Like its predecessor, it is the product of extensive consultation with carers themselves and with HSP officers, internal and external partners and stakeholders.

7.2 The new strategy holds to the vision of the strategy it is updating: *Carers in Haringey are empowered to care and live a better life*. A new national Carers Strategy was published in June 2008 and this has strongly influenced the development of our Haringey strategy. Titled *Carers at the heart of 21st-century families and communities A caring system on your side A life of your own*, the

national strategy sets out the four outcomes for adult carers to be achieved by 2018

- carers will be respected as expert care partners and will have access to the integrated and personalised services they need to support them in their caring role;
- carers will be able to have a life of their own alongside their caring role;
- carers will be supported so that they are not forced into financial hardship by their caring role; and
- carers will be supported to stay mentally and physically well and treated with dignity

7.3 The new Haringey Adult Carers Strategy 2009-2014 is aligned with the outcomes of the national strategy which provide the organising framework for the delivery plan.

7.4 The new Haringey Adult Carers Strategy 2009-2014 is a multi-agency, partnership strategy and takes a holistic view of the needs of unpaid carers and their well-being. Carers' needs cut across the conventional boundaries of client groups and service areas. Carers are everybody's business. In consequence the delivery plan to implement the strategy is complex and far-reaching.

7.5 Key initiatives to achieve the outcomes of the strategy will need to be included in all business plans covering the period 2009 -2012, the first phase of action planning. Progress with the strategy will be monitored through the Carers Partnership Board, a sub-group of the Well-being Partnership Board.

7.6 New initiatives which require resources cannot commence without prior identification of funding, either from existing resources or alternative funding streams.

8 Chief Financial Officer Comments

8.1 There are 28 initiatives within the delivery plan. These will be funded from within existing resources through commissioning and re-tendering of services and reallocating funding. Further plans should be compiled detailing expenditure and funding for each of these areas. Consideration should be given to diverting existing funding e.g. the former Carers Grant element of the Area Based Grant, or approaching external agencies for contributions towards these initiatives.

9 Head of Legal Services Comments

9.1 The Head of Legal Services notes the contents of the report and the attached Haringey Carers' Strategy, and advises that there are no specific legal implications.

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| <p>9.2 The Head of Legal Services should be kept abreast of the progress of the strategy.</p> |
| <p>10 Head of Procurement Comments</p> <p>10.1 Not applicable.</p> |
| <p>11 Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments</p> <p>11.1 An equalities impact assessment (EIA) is being carried out as an integral part of the strategy's development. An EIA identifies the potential impacts of the strategy on different groups of carers segmented by age, disability, gender, race/ethnicity, religion or belief, and sexual orientation</p> <p>11.2 Haringey adult carers are a diverse and changing social group. Notwithstanding gaps in data, which need to be addressed as part of the EIA action plan, there is evidence for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of equality of access to support, established BME groups are well-represented /over-represented in carers' services • Male carers aged 18-64 are under-represented • 'Seldom heard' carers include carers from the Bangladeshi, Charedi, and Chinese communities and outreach through umbrella community organisations is indicated • Potential carers within the Polish community, the largest number of new national insurance number registrations 2002-2007, need to be contacted at community information events • Among London boroughs, Haringey has the highest number of carers in the 18-34 age group and their support needs require greater understanding than hitherto <p>11.3 It should be noted that carers are a disadvantaged group <i>in their own right</i>, facing exclusion and discrimination (especially in relation to work and education) as well as deterioration in their health and financial situation, both of which tend to worsen with length of caring and with intensity of caring. Carers cannot access the opportunities of an ordinary life which people without caring responsibilities take for granted. Discrimination against carers is to be outlawed in the forthcoming Equalities Bill.</p> <p>11.4 Recognition and respect as a carer, along with flexible support to carry on caring, are carers' own top priorities in planning and implementing change.</p> |
| <p>12 Consultation</p> <p>12.1 In preparation for the development of the Haringey Adult Carers Strategy 2009-</p> |

2014, the Carers Partnership Board (CPB) has been re-invigorated and now has 19 carer members.

12.2 Carers have been the drivers of the revision and updating of the Strategy and carer members of the CPB took a lead in decision-making about the consultation.

12.3 Haringey's corporate consultation process and guidance has been used throughout and a consultation report will shortly be available on the Council website.

12.4 Appendix D of the Haringey Adult Carers Strategy Draft contains further information on the consultation.

13 Service Financial Comments

13.1 The initiatives outlined in the delivery plan are to be funded through:

- existing resources (within each partner organisation)
- the Personalisation Programme where appropriate, and
- external funding sources which will be sought where available.

13.2 Opportunities for remodelling existing services and reinvestment opportunities to deliver the outcomes identified by carers will be incorporated into the commissioning strategy for Adult, Culture and Community Services.

14 Use of appendices /Tables and photographs

14.1 Haringey Adult Carers Strategy 2009-2014

14.2 Haringey Adult Carers Strategy Delivery Plan 2009-2012

15 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

15.1 Haringey Adult Carers Strategy 2009-2014

15.2 Haringey's Wellbeing Strategic Framework 2007-2010

15.3 Local Area Agreement 2008-2011