

**Meeting:** Well-Being Strategic Partnership Board

**Date:** 8 December 2008

**Report Title:** Update on Development of Carers Strategy

**Report of:** Barbara Nicholls, Head of Commissioning, ACCS

**Purpose**

To update the Well-Being Strategic Partnership Board on the planned revision of *Haringey Carers Strategy* and to seek agreement on the attached Project Brief.

**Summary**

The Carers Strategy 2005/08 requires review and updating in particular to take account of the requirements and recommendations in the National Carers Strategy published in June 2008. Consultation with carers, users and other key stakeholders is due to commence in January 2008 and will be complete by mid April 2008. An action plan will be developed and be managed and monitored through the Carers Partnership Board

**Legal/Financial Implications**

Nil at this time – any initiatives from the completed strategy must be implemented within existing resources.

**Recommendations**

- i. To note the approach proposed to the review/develop of a new Carers Strategy.
- ii. To note and approve the Project Brief.
- iii. To note the intention to bring the finalised Carers Strategy to the Well-being Partnership Board in May 2009 (as per Project Brief attached as an appendix).

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## 1. Background

- 1.1 The 2001 census identified 15,889 carers in Haringey. According to the figures in the Carers UK report published in September 2007<sup>1</sup> the value of that care, calculated as replacement care, is estimated to be £236.5 million. The figures highlight the contribution carers are making and the cost of providing replacement care if a carer is no longer able to provide it. Supporting carers is cost effective and contributes to the well-being of carers and that of the people for whom they care.
- 1.2 The current *Haringey Carers Strategy* is a multi-agency strategy which was developed in partnership with carers. It covers the period 2005-2008 and so needs revising and updating.
- 1.3 Since 2005 there have been a number of national and local policy developments relevant to carers which need to be taken into account in a new local strategy. These include:

### **Key National developments**

- **Our Health Our Care Our Say** White Paper<sup>2</sup>, January 2006
- **New Deal for Carers** February 2007
- New **national indicators for health and social care**<sup>3</sup>, October 2007
- **National carers strategy**<sup>4</sup>, June 2008
- Carers are increasingly featuring in national debates on equalities issues<sup>5</sup>

### **Key local developments**

- Two voluntary sector carers' consultation events October 2007
- **Well-being Strategic Framework** adopted October 2007
- The second year of Carer of the Year Award 2008
- The appointment of Cllr Catherine Harris as Carers Champion and Chair of the Carers Partnership Board (CPB).
- Recruitment drive for carers to join the CPB and first meeting of revitalised CPB in September 2008
- The personalisation agenda<sup>6</sup> which was signalled by the government in *Transforming Social Care* January 2008 and is being taken forward by the personalisation programme in Haringey.

## 2. Implications

- 2.1 We are now in a position to move rapidly on the development of a new partnership strategy for carers in Haringey reflecting the aspirations of Haringey carers, national recommendations and Well-being Strategic Framework priorities.

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<sup>1</sup> *Valuing Carers- calculating the value of unpaid care.* Carers UK September 2007  
<http://www.carersuk.org/Newsandcampaigns/Valuingcarers/Fullreport>

<sup>2</sup> Department of Health January 2006

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nationalindicator>

<sup>4</sup> *Carers at the heart of 21<sup>st</sup> century families and communities: "A caring system on your side. A life of your own."* HM government June 2008

<sup>5</sup> *The Equality Bill-Government response to the consultation.* July 2008

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/LocalAuthorityCirculars/DH\\_081934](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/LocalAuthorityCirculars/DH_081934)

2.2 Clear strategic priorities are needed for commissioning and provision of services for carers from:

- the Area Based Grant into which the previously ring-fenced Carers Grant has now been subsumed
- the new 'breaks' money for carers announced with the national carers strategy which will be paid via PCTs. (National guidance is awaited). Indications in November 08 are that the £150 million, £50 million will be made available to localities via PCT in 2009/10 and the remaining £100 million in 2010/11. The NHS Operating Framework for 2009/10 will be released shortly and it is understood will include a statement about the use of the breaks money. On announcing the additional funding for breaks for carers in June 2008, the Government stressed the need for Local Authorities and PCT's to work together to ensure a joined up approach with use of Carers Grant (now in the ABG) and any other local funding for supporting carers.

2.3 The recommendations in this report provide a way of taking this work forward with the involvement of carers via the reinvigorated CPB.

### **3. Use of appendices**

**Appendix 1:** Haringey Carers Strategy Project Brief for consideration/approval