

Executive Member Signing**On 31st January 2006**Report Title: **Haringey Carer's Strategy**

Forward Plan reference number (if applicable):

Report of: **Anne Bristow, Director of Social Services**Wards(s) affected: **All**Report for: **Non Key****1. Purpose**

1.1 To agree the Haringey Carer's Strategy

2. Introduction by Executive Member

2.1 With almost 16,000 carers in Haringey, we have a duty to ensure the services and advice we provide to them has a strategic frame - addressing many aspects of supporting carers - and monitoring our delivery of such services.

Haringey Council has looked at the type of services we provide and how we provide them and we have asked Carers how we could improve these services. Through consultation and working in partnership with carers we have developed a strategy which I believe is responsive to the needs of carers in Haringey. Some of the improvements this strategy will deliver include: the direct booking scheme for respite care, which will allow carers to arrange breaks directly with the residential care home and an Emergency Card Scheme for Carers.

I believe this strategy demonstrates our commitment to supporting carers in Haringey and a clear understanding of the task carers undertake.

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3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 The Haringey Carers Strategy represents the culmination of championing the carers agenda across the Local Strategic Partnership, to include Carers, Services Users, the Voluntary Sector and Statutory Organisations.
- 3.2 The Strategy sets out a vision for how services need to be developed to support carers.

4. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)

- 4.1 The Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act , 2004 took effect on 1st April, 2005. It builds on previous carers' legislation, strengthening carers' rights. Carers should be able to access the same opportunities that are available to those without caring responsibilities.
- 4.2 The strategy fully reflects the key element of the new Act that carers should be supported to care *and* to live as full a life as possible.
- 4.3 The strategy recognises the importance of information in enabling carers to make choices about how to balance caring with a life of their own.

5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 5.1 Haringey Carer's Strategy 2005 - 2008.

6. Background

- 6.1 The purpose of Haringey Carers Strategy is to develop sustainable and appropriate services and support for known carers and to reach out and identify those carers presently hidden from services.
- 6.2 It reflects a commitment of health and social care partners to improve carers' support services over the next three years.
- 6.3 This commitment to identify and support more carers is made within a context of available resources, including the availability of Carers Grant.

7. Description

- 7.1 This strategy develops and extends previous approaches to supporting carers. It was developed during 2004-2005 by the Carers Partnership Board. The strategy covers all care groups and carers of all ages.
- 7.2 The implementation plan identifies 8 key areas of work: information, assessment of carers' needs, carers' health and short breaks, carers' employment and financial security, children and young people as carers, the voice of carers in service planning, commissioning plans, and staff and carers' training.
- 7.3 Actions across all sectors and settings will secure the vision of the strategy to empower carers to care and live better lives.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 The local knowledge of carers, and their views, has significantly shaped the content of the strategy. The document is structured so that policy issues and what carers have said they want to see changed link directly to strategies for improvement.

8.2 There was an initial round of consultation with carers and partners through the client specific Partnership Boards and organisations working with carers. The revised strategy was subsequently consulted on, including forums held in community settings, and endorsed by the Health and Social Care Executive.

9. Financial Implications

9.1 The implementation of the Haringey Carers Strategy will be supported by the Carers Grant, 1.1 million in 2005/06.

10. Summary and Conclusions

10.1 The Haringey Carers Strategy sets out a clear framework for the promotion of Carers. The strategy helps to set out clear priorities for the development of services to achieve the Haringey Vision of ' Carers in Haringey are empowered to care and live better lives'.

11. Recommendations

11.1 That Members adopt the Haringey Carers Strategy 2005 – 2008 as Council policy.

12. Comments of the Director of Finance

12.1 The Carers Grant allocation is allocated between services according to the grant determination. In 2005-06 the split is as follows:

Children's	£404.3k
Adults	£589.4k
Older People	£131.3k

13. Comments of the Head of Legal Services

13.1 The Haringey Carers Strategy is not a key decision and its adoption comes within the delegated powers and portfolio of the Executive Member for Health and Social Services.

14. Equalities Implications

14.1 Carers play a vital role in maintaining disabled/vulnerable people in the community. They are critical partners with the statutory services in ensuring people with disabilities can participate in their community. The Carers Strategy will ensure a greater number of hidden carers are brought to the attention of services who then can be provided with an assessment and any subsequent services required.

15. Use of Appendices

15.1 Haringey Carers Strategy 2005 -2008.