

Report Title: **Scrutiny Review of Support to Carers**

Report of: **Councillor Adamou, Chair of the review panel**

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Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **[Key / Non-Key Decision]**

1. Purpose of the report (That is, the decision required)

1.1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approve the recommendations laid out in the attached report.

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member (if necessary)

2.1. N/A

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

3.1. This review links with the Sustainable Community Strategy Outcomes of:

- Economic vitality shared by all, specifically:
 - Maximise income
 - Increase skills and educational achievement.
- Healthier people with a better quality of life, specifically:
 - Tackle health inequalities
 - Give greater opportunities to live a healthier lifestyle
 - Promote independence and provide high quality support and care for those in greatest need.

3.2. This review links with the Council Plan priorities of:

- A Thriving Haringey
- A Caring Haringey
- Driving Change, Improving Quality

3.3. This review links with the following Local Area Agreement:

- NI 135 – Carers receiving needs assessment or review and a specific care's service, or advice and information

4. Recommendations

4.1. Review recommendations are laid out in the attached report.

5. Reason for recommendation(s)

5.1. Reasons for the recommendations laid out in the main report are covered within the main body of the attached report.

6. Other options considered

6.1. N/A

7. Summary

7.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned a review into the support given to adult carers of adults as part of it's 2009/10 work plan. The terms of reference for the review was:

“To assess the support provided to adult carers of adults in Haringey specifically to provide an objective view of these services and whether they provide value for money”

7.2. The Partnership has recently agreed a Carers Strategy and associated Delivery Plan, it is hoped that the recommendations within this report contribute to the work being carried out.

7.3. Key findings of the review:

- Carers are estimated to save Haringey £236million per annum.
- There is a strategic commitment across the partnership to improving the support given to carers in Haringey.
- Carers highly value the support given to them by the Voluntary and Community Sector organisations and consider these services as a 'life line'.

- The Carers Partnership Board has a strategic input and is an effective forum for discussions and developments.
- Carers feel that access to flexible carers breaks/respite would help them to fulfil their caring role for longer.

8. Chief Financial Officer Comments

8.1. There are no specific financial implications arising from the recommendations following this review. However as the service follows up on this review and puts in place specific actions to address the recommendations it must ensure that any cost implications are met from within the existing resources for 2010/11.

9. Head of Legal Services Comments

9.1. No legal implications are raised by this report.

10. Service Financial comments

10.1. The report focuses on strategic and policy issues arising from partnership activity with regards to supporting adult carers of adults in Haringey.

10.2. Any specific direct financial implications arising from the recommendations will be included in the formal response to the review by the Council and its partners.

11. Head of Procurement Comments – [Required for Procurement Committee]

11.1. N/A

12. Equalities & Community Cohesion Comments

12.1. According to the 2001 Census 15,967 people identified themselves as carers' in Haringey.

12.2. Equalities issues as identified in the Haringey Carers Strategy Equalities Impact Assessment¹ along the six equalities strands are as follows:

- Age – under-support of young adult carers aged 18-34 years.
- Disability - Improved support for carers as a whole population has potential to benefit carers with a disability

¹ Haringey Adult Carers Strategy, Equalities Impact Assessment, Haringey Strategic Partnership, 2009

- Ethnicity – there is under-representation of Pakistani, Bengali and Chinese Carers in provided services, each of which are identified as growing populations in Haringey.
- Gender – under representation of male carers in services and in consultations.
- Religion – lack of data available on religion or belief whilst available information points to an under-representation of muslim carers in both services and consultations.
- Carers from Charedi community not separately identified as faith group and not directly represented in service development
- Sexual orientation - Lack of information about needs of lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender carers to make an evidence-based assessment of impact.

11 Consultation

11.2 Throughout the scrutiny review process views and evidence was considered from Council departments, NHS Haringey, Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust, Mental Health Carers Support Association, Haringey Carers centre, BME Carers, Asian Carers Support Group, HAVCO well-being theme group, Carers Partnership Board and a number of carers.

11.3 The attached report has been submitted to the relevant officers across Council and other relevant agencies for consideration of the technical accuracy of the report and feasibility of the recommendations.

12 Use of appendices /Tables and photographs

12.2 Please see Contents page in main report for appendices

13 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- National Carers strategy: Carers at the heart of 21st Century families and communities, Department of Health, 2008
- Haringey Adult Carers Strategy 2009-2014, Haringey Strategic Partnership, 2009
- Haringey Adult Carers Strategy Delivery Plan 2009-2011, Haringey Strategic Partnership, 2009
- Comprehensive Area Assessment Framework, Audit Commission, February 2009
- Our Health, Our Care, Our Say: a new direction for community services, Department of Health, 2006
- Putting People First; a shared vision and commitment to the transformation of adult social care, Department of Health, 2007

- Employment support for carers (research report 597), Department for Work and Pensions, 2009
- Local Government Information Unit, Health and Social Care Round up briefing, 2009
- Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004, Office of Public Sector Information
- Work and Families Act 2006, Office of Public Sector Information
- Commissioning for Carers, Improvement and Development Agency
- Equalities Bill 2009
- Supporting Carers to Care, Commons Public Accounts Committee, 2009
- Haringey Adult Carers Strategy, Equalities Impact Assessment, 2009
- Haringey Independence, Well-being and Choice, Safeguarding Adults Inspection, Care Quality Commission, January 2009
- High Quality Care, NHS Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2009/10, Department of Health, 2008
- Carers Grant 2008-2011 Guidance, Department of Health, 2008
- Sustainable Community Strategy, Haringey Strategic Partnership, 2007-2016
- Council Plan, Haringey Council, 2009-2010