

Report to: **Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **17 September 2009**

By: **Director of Adult Social Care**

Title of report: **Demonstrator Sites for Carers**

Purpose of report: **To update the Committee on plans for implementation of two successful bids to the Department of Health to deliver services for carers**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee are recommended to:

- 1. receive the background information on the demonstrator sites; and**
 - 2. agree to receive final evaluations at the end of the projects and receive recommendations for the future**
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1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 East Sussex County Council and both local Primary Care Trusts have been awarded the funding to deliver two demonstrator site projects between autumn 2009 and March 2011, as follows:-

1.2 (a) £610,071 to ESCC to provide breaks for carers; (b) £532,361 to the PCTs to provide better support for carers through the NHS.

1.3 Services will be delivered within these agreed budgets.

1.4 Consideration will be given throughout the life of the projects to issues of sustainability.

2. Background and Supporting Information

2.1 As part of the new National Carers Strategy released in 2008, the Department of Health have awarded £16 million to 25 Local Authorities and Primary Care Trusts across the country to deliver projects to test how best to provide support to carers.

2.2 The focus for these projects has been aimed specifically at areas of weakness and inequity in carers' services nationally that have been identified by national and local research, including how to provide effective regular breaks for carers, and how to ensure that the NHS provides better local support to carers.

2.3 East Sussex put in two bids, led by ESCC, the local NHS and voluntary sector colleagues to deliver two different projects which we believe can achieve the aims and objectives outlined by the Department of Health. These are:-

2.4 **Breaks for Carers:** This project will replicate and extend the existing work undertaken by South Wealden and Eastbourne Older People's Mental Health Teams to provide flexible, individually tailored respite and support to carers of people with dementia. The existing projects have been exceptionally successful and are well regarded by professionals and carers locally. Comments on the current projects include:

From a carer: "Two hours help from a support worker is like a two week holiday for me – they understand Mary".

From a consultant psychiatrist: "The feedback from the patient and carer is very good. The support workers provide a very important role in the CMHT "

From a social worker: "without the Community support workers service, many of the carers I work with would break down...the flexibility of the service and the specialist mental health skills and knowledge of the CSW are fundamental to the success of the service".

The demonstrator site intends to address the issue of health inequalities in older carers of people with dementia. We will roll out this programme of support throughout the county in order to establish the model and evaluate its effectiveness across the widely differing areas of the county.

2.5 Better NHS support for carers: The project will pilot intensive primary care work in 6 electoral wards in East Sussex using the good practice guide Supporting Carers: An action guide for general practitioners and their teams, which was published in 2008. It will also enhance the capacity of support services which are currently commissioned in 2 hospitals. This will result in a whole systems approach to identifying health needs, registering and referring carers and reducing health inequalities for carers. This project will be delivered through Care for the Carers (the local carers' centre affiliated to the Princess Royal Trust for Carers).

It is estimated that a minimum of 600 carers will benefit from the project who will be involved at each stage of the care pathway, so that health outcomes are improved for the both the carer and the cared for.

2.6 Both demonstrator sites are partnership projects guided by steering groups, which are made up of statutory and voluntary sector colleagues and carers, and each project has a robust system of evaluation in place, to be undertaken by a research fellow at the University of Brighton and by an evaluation officer at the PCT.

2.7 A particular feature of East Sussex is the presence of both urban and rural deprivation, and a prevalence of older carers, 50% of whom have their own long-term illness or disability. East Sussex also has the largest proportion of people over 85 in the country, and given that one third of the population in this age group has dementia, there is a clear need to support their carers. Rural isolation is also a key issue in East Sussex, which these projects will help to address

3. Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 The Committee is requested to ask for final evaluations of the projects, and to receive recommendations for the future in the light of the results.

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Local Member(s): All

Background Documents: None