

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Adult Social Care and Community Safety Committee met on 1 March 2012

Present: Councillor Pragnell (Chairman)
Councillors Barnes, Healy, Ost, Scott, Taylor and Mrs Tidy
Janet Colvert (LINK representative)

Also present: Councillor Bentley, Lead Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and
Councillor Elkin, Lead Cabinet Member for Children's and Adults' Services

1. Scrutiny Review of Identifying Carers

1.1 The Committee has completed its Scrutiny Review of Identifying Carers. A copy of the Committee's full report has previously been circulated to all members and is available on request from Andy Cottell (Tel: 01273 481955).

1.2 Carers play an invaluable role in reducing the burden on health and social care services in East Sussex. Supporting them should be a priority for the County Council and its partners.

1.3 The County Council offers a wide range of support to eligible carers. However, many are unaware that this support is available and some consider their role as a 'duty' towards a loved one rather than something that the local authority or health services are there to assist them with.

1.4 Widespread promotion of information to carers and carer awareness training for staff across health, social care and voluntary organisations can help. The Local Pharmaceutical Committee has shown particular enthusiasm for distributing "Do you look after someone?" leaflets to carers.

1.5 GP practices are pivotal in identifying 'hidden' carers. Encouraging GPs to prioritise the identification of carers is a key outcome of this review.

1.6 A closer working relationship between the County Council and the Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust will help to ensure that carers' information is passed between organisations more effectively. Enhanced communication between Children's Services and Adult Social Care about carers will help to ensure that their needs are not overlooked during transition.

1.7 The Adult Social Care and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee **recommends** to the County Council that –

1.7.1 Adult Social Care should ensure that the Assessment and Care Management Teams have a mechanism in place that ensures they actively follow up any unreturned supported assessment forms so that all carers have the opportunity to be properly assessed.

1.7.2 ASC should build a mechanism into the process of transition from children's to adult social care services, which is being overseen by the new Transition Team, to ensure the referral of a carer of a service user for a carer's assessment.

1.7.3 The appropriate Adult Social Care team should undertake an automatic review of a carer's needs when a young carer becomes an adult.

1.7.4 To engage more effectively with GP practices using all available tools, particularly new opportunities through commissioning and the development of integrated community teams.

1.7.5 The Council should encourage GP practices to continue to take up the Carers' Charter offered through Care for the Carers and to identify Carer Champions.

1.7.6 The Council should use its position on the Health and Wellbeing Board to make the business and quality case to the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to demonstrate that effective support for carers will be beneficial for them in achieving quality of care targets.

1.7.7 East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust should continue to roll out the Council's 'Carer Aware' training to its staff.

1.7.8 The ESCC lead commissioner for carers should network with colleagues in West Sussex, Brighton & Hove, Kent and Surrey to share good practice and ensure there is consistency in relation to the passing on of carer information between trusts and local authorities.

1.7.9 Adult Social Care should devise a system to feedback to the Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust the status of a carer's assessment following the referral of the carer by the Trust.

1.7.10 Commissioners in Public Health should support the role of pharmacies in identifying and signposting carers as part of their ongoing commissioning activity, including specific activities as follows:

- To make 'Carer Aware' training available to pharmacy staff.
- To make "Do you look after someone?" leaflets available to pharmacies for insertion into blister packs/handing out to potential carers by pharmacy staff (including delivery drivers)
- To encourage pharmacies to insert the leaflet into the 'Message in a Bottle' bottles supplied by Lions Clubs, prior to giving them to patients/carers.

[See also report of the Cabinet, paragraph 3]

PETER PRAGNELL

Chairman

1 March 2012