



**Redcar & Cleveland Carers Partnership Meeting
12.30pm on Monday, 13th December 2010
Coatham Memorial Hall, Redcar**

Attendees

Carers

Marjorie Hardy
Julie Page
S R Lewis
Barbara Harrison
Gordon Mogg (Co-Chair)

Vera Bailey
Ann Milne
Les Simpson
Tony Atherley
Stuart Saunders

Beryl Stark
Gwen Wood
Caroline Simpson
Ron Sabiston

Others

Nadean Porritt
Sue Corner
Kath Oyston
David Morris
Yvonne Bradbury
Ian Hutchinson
Jo Swinburne
Cllr Valerie Halton

Jim Wingham
Russell Bateman
Noel McMenamin
Jane Reast
Mark Welford
Irene Poynter
Sue Reeves

John Carroll
Ron Wood
Sarah Morris
Karen Bowers (Co-chair)
Sue Renvoize
Amanda Spencer
Angela Bartley

Apologies

Carers

Linda Dickinson
Harold Williams
Gerald Bellord
Marjorie Elliott

Jean Cunion
Claire Heath
Gillian Petch
Len Wyres

Dennis Smith
Ron Wood
Susan Scott
Maureen Wyres

Others

Janet Evans
Stuart Myers
Claire Smith
Caroline Robertson
Peter Moody

Councillor Norma Hensby
Jayne Jeal
Louise Tierney
Andrew McDonald
Bill Gamble

Mary McDermott
Chris Pope
Stan Peverley
Brian Footitt
Anne Greenley

1. Welcome/Apologies – Gordon Mogg/Karen Bowers

- Gordon welcomed everybody to the meeting, apologising for the delayed start.
- Kath Oyston, Sign Language Communicator, was present should assistance be requested.
- Karen Bowers acted as Co-chair as Lynn Johnson has left her post in Adult Social Care.
- Apologies would be included in the minutes. No apologies were received from the floor.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising – Gordon Mogg/Karen Bowers

- Minutes were made available and viewed for accuracy. No issues were raised.
- The Partnership was informed of the recent death of Alf Robinson who regularly attended and contributed to meetings with his wife Shirley. Condolences were expressed to Shirley and her family for their loss.
- The question of whether there is a carers champion in Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council has not yet been addressed and will be brought back at a later date.
- Mr and Mrs Purvis responded to a request at the last meeting for volunteers to assist Kings College London with a Stair Climbing Aid Research project. They were not able to attend the meeting so left feedback that they had found the experience interesting and would have no hesitation in encouraging others to participate if the opportunity arises. Participants are to be contacted again in March to provide further feedback on a prototype of the aid. Mr and Mrs Purvis may provide further feedback at a future meeting

3. Feedback from Care Quality Commission Report – Karen Bowers

A service inspection of adult social care in Redcar & Cleveland was carried out in July by the Care Quality Commission. A collective Partnership response and responses made by individuals were acknowledged as helpful in establishing broader reaching opinion on services.

The inspection report published in November was very disappointing concluding that Redcar & Cleveland was performing poorly in safeguarding adults and adequately in providing choice and control for older people. A copy of this public document had been circulated throughout the Partnership electronically. Hard copies will be provided for the next meeting.

The report details twenty recommendations for improving performance in the borough involving: safeguarding adults; increased choice and control for older people; providing leadership and commissioning and use of resources. Mike Dillon and Lynn Johnson have left their posts within the authority. Barbara Shaw is Acting Director of Adult and Children's Services and Carole Dodd is Acting Head of Adult Services. Some positive and significant changes have already been made and an action plan detailing implementation of improvements to be made has been signed off by Elected Members and Cabinet. Karen reassured the meeting that there is a clear commitment within the council to improve the provision of services.

Q Will plans for improvements be affected by cutbacks?

A Improvements need to be made regardless of any cuts in funding.

Q Carers Together is an essential service to many people in our borough. Can any assurances be given that cuts in funding will not affect the provision of this service?

A No assurances can be given at the moment. Impact Assessments are being carried out to determine what impact cuts will have on communities; decisions will be made when the budget is determined for the next calendar year.

Q As a carer of two vulnerable adults, the safeguarding issue has caused no end of worry. Can assurances be given that care provided to vulnerable adults in our borough is adequate?

A Information is verified by inspectors through a number of sources and never one isolated incident of concern. Two vacant posts have already been filled as a result of the report, and a new strategic safety lead has also been established. Properly trained, properly supported staff are working on improvements to offer freedom of choice with a commitment to safeguarding.

Q Redcar & Cleveland Carers Partnership has met regularly now since launching in 2007. Funding has not been agreed for the next calendar year. Could cuts mean that this is therefore the penultimate meeting?

A No assurances can be given at this time.

Q How can we be certain that carers are not penalised with cuts in spending?

A Any member of Redcar & Cleveland can make individual representation to the council with concerns over funding.

Q Will there be funding for the meeting scheduled to take place in March?

A Yes.

Q Can an update be provided at that meeting with regards to future funding?

A Yes.

Q Could consideration be made to amalgamating the various Partnerships?

A All Partnerships in Redcar & Cleveland have close working relationships at present - as a number of reports including the CQC Inspection Report have recognised. This collaborating and sharing of ideas and information could be utilised, and inconsistencies in the way that funding is currently commissioned by the council through to the various partnerships could also be given consideration so that cuts do not directly affect a specific Partnership. Carers Together and Redcar Real Opportunity Centre have already written to Amanda Skelton regarding this issue and to open dialogue.

Q If this is to be the penultimate meeting of the Carers Partnership, should our local MPs be invited to attend the next meeting?

A Notification of meeting dates is provided to MPs who are often unable to attend due to commitments to parliament. Consideration will be made as to whether the next meeting could be rescheduled for a Friday when MPs are often in their constituencies.

It was agreed that, whilst the Partnership appreciated the scale of the challenge ahead, the voluntary and community sector must be supported to continue to build a better borough. It is important that all partners are treated with equal respect and that constructive dialogue takes place with the council.

Karen Bowers left the meeting.

4. Recognised, valued and supported: Next steps for the Carers Strategy – Sue Reeves

In July the government sought views on the priorities needed to support carers over the next four years as part of a refresh of the Carers Strategy. The Carers Partnership submitted a response following the September meeting and the consultation document was distributed to allow carers to respond individually. Carers Together also submitted a response based on feedback through the organisation. A total of 764 responses were submitted: 13 from Partnerships; 97 from the local voluntary sector and 462 from individuals demonstrating the strength of community engagement in our borough. Recognised, valued and supported: Next steps for the Carers Strategy has been published by the government to set out its continued commitment to the vision of the Carers Strategy and the four priorities that were identified based upon responses received in the refresh and from Standing Commission advice. Priorities, not dissimilar to those identified previously in the National and Local Carers Strategies, are as follows with actions:

Priority area 1 - *Supporting those with caring responsibilities to identify themselves as carers at an early stage, recognising the value of their contribution and involving them from the outset both in designing local care provision and in planning individual care packages.*

Next Steps

1. £1million Reaching out to carers innovation fund, available in 2010/11.
2. DoH to provide additional resources for GP carer awareness training as well as for GPs to provide appropriate services such as psychological therapies for carers.
3. The publication of an information strategy and implementation plans following the current consultation on Liberating the NHS: An information revolution, which will consult with carers.
4. 2011 Skills for Care & Skills for Health will publish a learning and training framework on supporting carers, a guide for employers and commissioners of training, together with a wide range of tools to support development.
5. SCIE to include Carers and personalisation in their Good Practice Framework.
6. Joint Strategic Needs Assessments will have a revised guidance published in 2011/12 to recognise the importance of identifying the needs of carers.

Priority area 2 - *Enabling those with caring responsibilities to fulfil their educational and employment potential.*

Next Steps

1. The Early Intervention Grant available to local government from April 2011 will include young carers.
2. Consultation document to be issued next year to consult with business regarding flexible working. Legislative changes to follow if necessary.
3. DoH/BIS to work together to help carers stay in employment and set out plans for developing the workforce market to support personalisation.
4. Skills for Care set out workforce development strategy to help employers support greater personalisation. A personal assistants strategy will be published in 2011.
5. Job Centre Plus will continue to support carers.

Priority area 3 - Personalised support both for carers and those they support, enabling them to have a family and community life.

Next Steps

1. By April 2013 councils should provide all those eligible with a personal budget.
2. 2011 will see the publication of the results from the Whole Systems Demonstrator Programme on telehealth and telecare and will determine the adoption of the technology over the coming years.
3. In light of the work of the Law Commission and the Commission on the Funding of Care and Support the Government will consider the possibility of greater flexibility and portability of assessments.
4. Community Budgets will be available to 16 councils in 2011/12 before being rolled out in 2013/14. The budgets will fund a campaign to look at flexible ways in supporting families with multiple problems.
5. In response to the consultation *Liberating the NHS*, the Government will publish details on how councils and GP consortia can join up services.
6. As part of their improving outcomes for patients the Standing Commission on carers will prepare advice to be used by the NHS around improved carer support.

Priority area 4 - Supporting carers to remain mentally and physically well

Next Steps

1. £400million to be made available to the NHS over the next 4 years to support carers to take breaks.
2. DoH to publish an independent evaluation report of the carers/dementia demonstrator sites in autumn 2011 and autumn 2012 respectively.
3. Mental health strategy to be published early 2011.
4. SCIE will produce a report on telecare and telehealth.

Carers benefits are to be considered as part of the Benefits Review and were not included in the refresh. Despite this, 255 responses were submitted relating to benefits. It is estimated that 1,028 people are missing out on £2,882,572 Carers Allowance in our borough alone.

A copy of the National Carers Strategy can be accessed at www.dh.gov.uk and more information about 'Carers Missing Millions' can be obtained at www.carersuk.org.

Q It is well chronicled that a carer's health and wellbeing is extremely important. How is this issue being addressed in the Carers Strategy as it seems that the first port of call for most people would be their GP and yet there doesn't appear to be much in the way of proactivity on the part of the GP?

A DoH have provided additional resources for GP carer awareness training as well as for GPs to provide appropriate services such as psychological therapies for carers. We have made great strides to promote the identification of carers within GP practices in our borough as part of Carers Together's Health and Wellbeing Project. As an example carers registered with their GP should have been issued with information about flu jabs recently. However, we now need to build on the relationships we have developed with them, to

encourage them to work with the sector to achieve better outcomes for carers and the people they support.

Q Will reorganisation of the health service, particularly the transfer of some responsibilities to GP commissioning consortia, have an affect on carers?

A It is anticipated that there will be greater accountability for GP practices to work more closely with carers, and that targets will be set to contact carers annually.

Q When carers are ill their priority is often with the person that they care for. Our local community has a neighbourhood buddy scheme so neighbours make regular checks on one another to assist with bouts of illness or, more recently, restrictions due to bad weather conditions.

A Carers Together will highlight the benefits of establishing a buddy scheme in their next magazine.

Q Should the various Partnerships be involved in the Health and Wellbeing Board so that they can influence the set up of GP Consortiums in our area as they will ultimately be responsible for substantial amounts of public health funding?

A A joint event will be arranged early 2011 to discuss this issue.

5. Update on Redcar & Cleveland Carers Strategy – Sue Renvoize

Redcar & Cleveland Carers Strategy was co-produced with Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council, NHS Redcar & Cleveland and Carers Together with support from the Carers Partnership. There are similarities with the priorities identified when producing the National and Local Carers Strategies and those identified as part of the recent refresh of the National Carers Strategy. The Local Carers Strategy will be revisited to build on the commitments of the National Carers Strategy and to provide consistency.

Volunteers were invited to establish a strategic group to oversee the Local Carers Strategy and report back to the Partnership.

6. Feedback from Primary Care Trust Funding to Provide Opportunities for Carers – Carers Together

Carers Together have been commissioned to provide training and opportunities for carers to have a break:

- Complementary Therapy sessions provided by Hands and Oils Aromatherapy and subsidised by the organisation have been extended; they now also include regular late night sessions to allow greater accessibility for working carers.
- Carers were involved with a health training pilot last year to find out what information was most valuable when people first found themselves in their caring role. The course was evaluated and participants identified further training needs. Following the success of the pilot, a Health Training course has taken place covering social care and carers assessments; basic first aid; falls awareness and prevention; safe handling of medication, etc. Another course is will run early 2011 – further information and sign up sheets available.

- Give Us A Break! health awareness days are being held in the borough to provide information relating to health services, leisure activities and social care services. Eligible carers can also benefit from a healthy heart check; and blood pressure, height/weight and Diabetes checks are also available. The next Give Us A Break! event will be held in January 2011 at Eston Sports Academy – further information and sign up sheets available.
- Free computer groups regularly take place across the borough. A new course is scheduled to start in the new year at Eston Sports Academy's Cyber Valley. Previous courses have helped to enhance carers lives by providing them with the skills needed to partake in anything from shopping online for groceries and insurance to keeping in contact with family who live away. A new tutor is excited about the prospect of the course and has suggested collating recipes from carers to create a cookery book - any ideas welcome. Further information and sign up sheets available.

7. Any Other Business – Gordon Mogg

Gordon thanked everybody for attending, despite the bad weather.

Harold Williams was in touch prior to the meeting to offer his apologies and asked that thanks on behalf of himself and his wife, and other carers in Redcar & Cleveland be offered to the staff at Carers Together for all the work that they do.

Gordon wished everybody a Happy Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2011.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on:

**Monday, 14th March 2011
at Coatham Memorial Hall, Redcar
Buffet lunch from 12.00pm for a 12.30pm start**

