



HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

18TH JULY 2018

REPORT TITLE	<i>Supporting an integrated approach to identifying and assessing Carers health and wellbeing - MOU</i>
REPORT OF	<i>Carol Jones, Commissioning Lead, Wirral Health and Care Commissioning</i>

REPORT SUMMARY

A Carer can be defined as anyone who cares, unpaid, for a friend, partner or family member who needs help due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction who would not manage without their support.

The Memorandum of Understanding – Supporting an integrated approach to identifying and assessing Carers health and wellbeing needs provides the basis for organisations to show their commitment to support, identify and assess Carers in Wirral. It provides the opportunity for organisations to adopt the approach that ‘Carers are everybody’s business’. The MOU was developed by NHS England, ADASS and others. It has been supported locally by key partners represented at the Carers Partnership Board, who are committed to working together for adult Carers and Young Carers.

Background

In 2014, a mandate from the Department of Health to NHS England included the objectives ‘to ensure that the NHS becomes drastically better at involving patients and their Carers, and empowering them to manage and make decisions about their own care and treatment’. In response, NHS England and the Royal College of General Practitioners launched their Commitment to Carers report which sets out 8 priorities and 37 commitments and the Commissioning for Carers guidance <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/commitment-to-carers-may14.pdf>

In 2016, NHS England launched ‘An integrated approach to identifying and assessing Carers health and wellbeing’, this paper addresses changes to the way in which Carers

health and wellbeing need is identified, assessed and supported as a result of the changes introduced by the Care Act 2014. It is a resource to help promote working together between adult social care, NHS commissioners and providers and the third sector organisations that support Carers, of all ages, with a specific focus on developing an integrated approach to the identification, assessment and support of Carers and their families across health and social care.

In June 2018, the Department of Health and Social Care launched the new Carers Action Plan 2018 – 2020, and it is cited that Carers will be central to the social care Green Paper expected to follow later in the summer. The Carers Action Plan retains the strategic vision for Carers being recognised, valued and supported and that ‘caring is everybody’s business’. It sets out 5 Primary themes from the Call for Evidence consultation in 2016:

- Services and systems that work for Carers
- Employment and financial wellbeing
- Supporting Young Carers
- Recognising and supporting Carers in the wider community and society
- Building research and evidence to improve outcomes for Carers

The new Carers Action Plan 2018 – 2020 will be used to refresh Wirral’s Strategy for Carers, Caring for our Carers, in which The Vision for Carers in Wirral is *‘Carers in Wirral will feel supported in their caring role, feel valued within their communities and recognised by professionals for their valuable contribution’*.

Local Picture

There are 40,340 self-reported Carers in Wirral (census 2011), which is 12.6% of the population; this is a higher percentage than the North West (11.1%) and England (10.2%). In Wirral, there is a projected increase in the number of Carers to 42,644, which is a further 2% of the population, 2018 - 2028. Carers come from all age groups and reside in all wards across the Borough. They can provide a range of physical, practical and emotional tasks to support the person they care for, whilst this can be rewarding, it also can be very demanding and puts a strain on the Carers own health and wellbeing and can impact on wider aspects of a Carers life such as, social interactions with other family members and friends, finances, work and leisure opportunities. People can begin to provide care to a relative, family or friend at any time in their life, this can occur suddenly due to someone experiencing acute ill-health or following an accident or gradually due to a

deteriorating condition. There are approximately 22,000 people in Wirral combine work with caring responsibilities for someone else. Young Carers maybe providing inappropriate care for an adult and the care a Young Carer provides is likely to have a significant impact on their health, training, education and social needs.

Research shows that a Carer is more likely to experience poor health with the increasing number of hours that they provide care to someone else. Census data 2011 showed that there were over 9,000 residents over 65 years who provide 50 hours plus per week caring.

The number of Carers known to General Practices and other NHS service remain very low and the number of Carers known to social care services receiving a Carers Assessment is also low, with no significant increase since the introduction of the Care Act 2014, as is the case for the identification of Young Carers, under the Children and Families Act 2014 and Care Act.

Valuing Carers 2015 (Carers UK) estimated that the local economic value of the contribution made by Wirral Carers was £851 million/ year. The increasing contribution that Carers are making is not only because of an increase in the number of people providing care to a relative or friend over 85 years, but also the number of people with limiting long-term care conditions and increase demand for health and social care support.

By agreeing to commit to the integrated approach, to recognise and value the role that Carers play across health and social care is key to work together to identify people who have caring responsibilities (even if they do not identify themselves as Carers). We will be able to identify Carers earlier in their caring role, to signpost people to the appropriate support services available and help maintain their health, wellbeing and continue and to support them to have a life outside of their caring role. Carers will be better informed as to who to go to if their support needs begin to escalate or access services available to them in the community to enable them to continue caring.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- The Health and Wellbeing Board members agree to the need to improve the identification, recognition and support of Carers in Wirral

- Members endorse the NHSE Memorandum of Understanding – Supporting an integrated approach to the identification and assessment of Carers health and wellbeing
- Progress on developments will be reported by the Carers Partnership Board to the Health and Wellbeing Board

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

To support the integration of services and the implementation of requirements of the Care Act 2014 and the Children and Families Act 2014.

One in eight of the Wirral population has a caring responsibility, providing appropriate support to those Carers to improve their physical and mental health, economic wellbeing will assist to meet the pledges and objectives set out in the Wirral 2020 Plan and Healthy Wirral.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

N/A

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

4.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

5.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

N/A

6.0 RELEVANT RISKS

N/A

7.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Carers Partnership Board

8.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

The Care Act 2014 introduced new rights for Carers eligibility to an assessment, meeting identified needs and outcomes and placed them, for the first time, on an equal footing to the person that they care for. There is also a duty to identify Young Carers and adult Young Carers on 'appearance of need'.

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APPENDICES

Draft MOU Agreement



Supporting
integrated approach 1

NHS England – An integrated approach to identifying and assessing Carer health and Wellbeing



identifying-assessing
-carer-hlth-wellbeing.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
N/A	