

Solihull Carers Partnership Board First Annual Report 2014-15



Chair's Foreword

I am pleased to present the Board's first Annual Report following the establishment of the Solihull Carers' Partnership Board in January 2014 and to acknowledge the enthusiastic support and invaluable contributions of all participating agencies and experts by experience. It was a privilege to participate at the launch of the Solihull Carers' Strategy 2014- 2017 in November 2014 in my capacity of the elected members' Carers' Champion and to advocate that all carers' young and not so young benefit through the realisation of the seven Outcomes identified. My expectation and that of the Board will be to see an even more caring Council and community help in acknowledging the invaluable and dedicated work of all our carers. To that extent the Board will be proactive in monitoring and evaluating the seven Outcomes of the Carers' Strategy through focused work plan development and crucially the work streams that will be an integral part of the Board's framework for seeking to capture and articulate the 'voice of the carer'.

The Board is accountable to the Health & Wellbeing Board and has agreed the Terms of Reference which remain under review and will be strengthened through the learning and practical experience of the Board's activities. We will make recommendations to the Health & Wellbeing Board and anticipate opportunities to make appropriate representations out of the key project areas that will focus on both strategic and practical matters affecting the daily lives of carers'. Key to the success of the Carers' Strategy will be communicating and effective signposting, especially to new carers, and our Primary Care sector will be a significant contributor to this end. The high expectations of all who have and will continue to contribute to making the Carers' Strategy a success will rest on the verdict of our carers' and I sincerely hope they will not be disappointed.

Councillor Alan Rebeiro



About the Carers Partnership Board

The Partnership Board was established in January 2014, it had been recognised that the legislation for both Children and Families, and Carers was undergoing significant change. One of the changes identified was services to and the recognition of carers, together with the inception of the Better Care fund which required Health and Social Care to not only work closer together but to also pool budgets it made sense to establish a Board that would take all of this into account. A Board that would oversee the development of a new Carers strategy, challenge and monitor its outcomes and make recommendations about the development of new and innovative services.

The mission of the Board is

'Our purpose is to bring together experience and knowledge about the needs and aspirations of all carers in Solihull, to promote awareness and respect for the caring role and to discover ways to influence support for carers.'

- ◆ To achieve this the Board agreed the following goals which will be update at least annually to take into account the changes that are being faced.
- ◆ To influence support services to enable carers to have a fulfilling quality of life while carrying out their caring role.
- ◆ To ensure that a local Carers' Strategy is co-produced with carers.
- ◆ To see that the Carers' Strategy is approved by all relevant decision making and funding bodies.
- ◆ To provide oversight of the progress in implementing the Carers' Strategy.
- ◆ To provide a forum informed by personal and professional expertise to influence plans for new developments, to suggest improvements, to identify gaps and problems Identified in local services.
- ◆ To review the carers' views of local services to see how effectively they fulfil their duty o support carers.
- ◆ To raise the public profile of carers and ensure that their needs are considered in relation to other services, strategies and plans in Solihull.
- ◆ To promote and ensure active consultation with all interested stakeholders in matters that affect carers.
- ◆ To monitor the development of information resources that can be accessed and used by current and future carers.
- ◆ To bring to wider attention any item relevant to carers that may be considered in other forums, groups or meetings.
- ◆ To establish working groups to progress any specific issues for attention or development as necessary.
- ◆ To co-opt others when expert knowledge/experience is required.
- ◆ To be accountable to the Health & Wellbeing Board and seek to influence this and other funding and decision making bodies.

Membership

Solihull Carers' Partnership Board members represent Solihull's carers and services, with carer representatives making up half of the board.

Members include representatives of:

- Young carers
- Parent carers
- Carers of people with learning disabilities
- Carers of people with mental health problems
- Carers of older people
- Carers of people with dementia
- Carers of people with sensory impairments
- Carers of people with substances misuse problems
- Carers of people with physical health problems
- Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
- Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust
- Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group
- Solihull Carers' Centre
- Department of Work and Pensions

Other agencies are asked to attend the Board for items that they can help us to discuss and action. E.g. 'Think Patient, Think Carer Project.

Members of the Board may be asked to take part in working groups during their time as a member of the Board, or to find people from their organisations to assist in the work of the Board. E.g. strategy working group

What the partnership board has achieved in year 1.

Year 1 of the Board has been an interesting first year with people and organisations that have not previously worked together

The Carers Partnership Board in its first year has been instrumental in overseeing the development and launch of the carers strategy— 'Caring for Our Carers' and the implementation plan.

This was a significant undertaking, members of the Board who are carers and experts by experience were co-opted onto a strategy working group. This group were responsible for looking at the national outcomes and from this designed a questionnaire to find out 2 things— what had carers experiences been up to date and secondly what would help them to continue to care. The questionnaire was used in 3 ways;

- It was sent out to carers via organisations and handed out at relevant meetings
- It was turned in to an online survey
- It was used to form the basis of discussion at carers groups.

As a result of this consultation the 7 carers outcomes were established and the strategy was written co-produced by the working group.

Outcome 1 - All carers in Solihull are assisted to identify themselves as carers at an early stage

Outcome 2 - Carers have opportunities to be fully involved in designing and influencing local and national care provision and involvement in planning individual care packages.

Outcome 3- Carers will be enabled to fulfil their educational, training or employment potential

Outcome 4 - Carers will receive personalised support, both for themselves and the person they care for, enabling them to have a family and community life

Outcome 5 - Carers will be supported to remain mentally and physically well

Outcome 6 - Carers be protected from inappropriate caring roles

Outcome 7 - Young carers (aged 5-18) will have the support they need to learn, develop and thrive and to enjoy a positive childhood.

Subsequently, the first year implementation plan was produced to underpin the strategy.

The Board has identified a number of priority areas for carers

- Relationship with GP's—The manager of the GP and Health Professionals pilot project came to talk to the Board about the ways she is engaging with GP practices
- Issues at the point of transition for young carers and parent carers.
- Lack of understanding about Direct payments which has resulted in a training programme which will initially be co-delivered with Solihull carers Centre—'Taking the Fear out of Direct payments'
- More support for carers - where should our attention be focused (services, expenditure, working with employers, changing in health priorities) and carer voice needs to influence changes in health priorities.
- Advice and support needed - Carers then pointed in the right direction of services that are available to them.

What's next for the Carers' Partnership Board

The year ahead will be one of consolidating our learning from the first year and continuing to challenge services to provide the advice, information and support to carers that they need.

To support this happening we will

- Monitor and challenge the progress of the implementation plan
- Validate the spending proposals that have been agreed by the Joint Commissioning Operational Group
- Establish working groups to improve our understanding and commitment to carers, the following have been identified as potential subjects to investigate
 - Progress on the outcomes in the Carers Strategy
 - Hard to reach Carers (BME, travellers, Gays and lesbians) and trans gender people)
 - Carers Health and Wellbeing
 - Raising awareness for the support of Carers
 - Young Carers Group
 - Carers Forum
 - Transitions

We are recruiting new Carers Partnership Board Carer Members

Are you passionate about being a carer ?

Do you want to get the voice of carers heard?

Help to make a difference to carers services?

Then the Carers Partnership Board needs you.

What does it mean?

The Carers Partnership currently meets for 2 hours every quarter but there may be some other meetings in between.

There will be papers for information and others that you may want to comment on, as well as the meeting papers.

There is no right age to be involved so don't think that you are too young or too old.

We are under represented in the following areas but don't let that put you off -

Carers of a person who has mental health difficulties

Carers of people with a sensory impairment

Carers of people with substance or alcohol misuse

Please contact Janice Price to register your interest and to find out more -

- By email jprice@solihull.gov.uk
- By telephone 0121 -704-6686

For further information please contact

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