

Chairman's Announcements

Subject:	Carers in Wiltshire: Joint Strategy 2016 - 2020
Officer Contact Details:	Karen Walters, Community Commissioner (Carers)
Weblink:	http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal

Wiltshire Council and NHS Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group, in consultation with their other strategic partners (especially Carer Support Wiltshire, Wiltshire Parent Carer Council and Spurgeons) and over 50 carers have developed a new strategy for carers. The draft document is now available for the public to view and comment on before being finalised. It can be viewed in full on the council's consultations webpage:

<http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal>

Information postcards and leaflets are also available at this meeting.

Publicity materials can be provided from Karen Walters, Wiltshire Council, for any partners who would be willing to support spreading the message or if you would like to invite her to attend any local carer groups or meetings during the consultation period.

Please feedback comments by **13 July 2016** to: Karen Walters, Community Commissioner (Carers) at:

Address: County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge BA14 8JN

Email: Karen.walters@wiltshire.gov.uk

Mobile: 07876 393890

Who do we mean when we talk about carers?

Anyone can become a carer. A carer is someone of any age, including a child (young carer), who provides unpaid support to a family member or friend who could not always manage without this help. This could be caring for a relative (a parent, grandparent, sibling, child, spouse, partner) or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or who has mental health or substance misuse problems. They should not be confused with paid or volunteer support workers.

Most people are likely to be undertaking a caring role at some point in their lives, with many of us needing to access some form of information, advice and support during this difficult time.

Have we got things right in the new strategy?

We believe we have a strategy that is truly representative of the needs of Wiltshire carers. However, now is the time for you to have your say and influence the way services are commissioned over the next 4 years.

We invite members of the public, especially carers, to comment on this document to influence the future commissioning of support for carers in Wiltshire. We need you to tell us if we have got things right. We also want to

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know if you, as a carer, feel represented within this strategy and if not, what is it you would like to see added or changed. What services do you currently access (if any) that you value and why they are important to you?

We invite organisations and business in Wiltshire to comment on the document and to inform us of any contributions they are already making or could make, in order to support the delivery of this strategy.

A detailed action plan will be developed once the strategy is finalised to support its delivery.

Why is this strategy needed?

A Carers UK press release on 12 November 2015 stated “Unpaid carers save the UK **£132 billion a year** – the cost of a second NHS.” ¹

70% of the 47,608 ²carers living in Wiltshire continue to remain hidden and it is believed that many of these people will not be aware of their carer status. Accessible information and advice is therefore vital to ensure that these people know where to get help and support when they need it.

The Care Act places additional duties on social care services in assessing and addressing the needs of carers. Carers now have parity of esteem with those people they care for. We need to ensure that carers' of people with mental health issues are able to access appropriate services to meet their needs. There is a requirement for all health, social care and educational professionals to identify young carers and ensure their needs are being met and that they are not carrying out inappropriate caring roles.

The 2015 Healthwatch report “Unpaid Carers in Wiltshire: help in a crisis” highlights the need to review how we support carers in a crisis. Whilst early intervention and prevention measures is expected to reduce the likelihood of this point being reached, there will be unavoidable circumstances when a carer reaches crisis point and it is vital targeted support is available to help them when they reach this point.

Our shared vision for carers in Wiltshire:

Wiltshire cares for carers by ensuring that carers living in Wiltshire are identified and accepted as expert partners in care; are well informed; and maintain a good quality of life and healthy lifestyle outside of their caring responsibility.

To find out more please read the full strategy and / or contact Karen Walters direct.

¹ Valuing Carers 2015 – the rising value of carers' support Lisa Buckner (University of Leeds), Sue Yeandle (University of Sheffield)

² Census 2011

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