

Wiltshire Council

Health and Wellbeing Board

13 July 2017

Subject: The national Memorandum of Understanding “An integrated approach to the identification of carers health and wellbeing needs”

Executive Summary

NHS England have published a template Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote working together between Adult Care, the NHS and Third Sector organisations that support carers. It is proposed that the attached MoU, which is based on this national template, is adopted by the Wiltshire Health and Wellbeing Board.

Proposal(s)

It is recommended that the Board:

- i) Notes the progress with regards to the draft Carers Strategy and Implementation Plan;
- ii) Adopts the Memorandum of Understanding “An integrated approach to the identification and assessment of carers health and wellbeing needs” and commits to working together to deliver against the principles in the MoU.
- iii) Endorses the MoU as a document to which all partner organisations supporting carers in Wiltshire could sign to show their commitment to the principles set out within the document, and to the delivery of the Carers Strategy and Implementation Plan.

Reason for Proposal

To demonstrate the commitment of all members of the Health and Wellbeing Board to the duties of co-operation and promotion of wellbeing in relation to carers, and to a wider commitment to recognise and support carers.

Sue Geary

Head of Service (Adult Care Community Commissioning)

Wiltshire Council

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Purpose of Report

1. To present, and give context to, the attached Memorandum of Understanding - An integrated approach to the identification and assessment of carers' health and wellbeing needs – (the MoU) and propose that the MoU is adopted by the Wiltshire Health and Wellbeing Board and that the board commits to working together to deliver against the principles set out within it.

Background

2. Nationally, the Strategy for Carers has been delayed and its publication, originally planned for autumn 2016, has been postponed. Initially, the revised publication date was late November 2016, and then spring 2017. The current position on the national strategy is that there is no firm timescale for its completion.
3. Wiltshire undertook a large-scale consultation on its own Carers Strategy in the summer of 2016, but took the view that its publication should be delayed to take account of the new National Strategy. In order to maintain an impetus on actions to support carers, we have continued in the co-production of an implementation plan with representatives across the whole system, including carers' representatives.
4. The national template for a Memorandum of Understanding “An integrated approach to the identification and assessment of carers' health and wellbeing needs” is an NHS England document. Its development was informed by the contributions of members of The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, the regional Carers Policy Network meetings, the Department of Health and NHS England and national and local carer support organisations. The template is intended to be a resource to help promote working together between Adult social care services, NHS commissioners and providers, and third sector organisations that support carers, irrespective of their age, with a specific focus on developing an integrated approach to the identification and assessment of carers' health and wellbeing needs across health and social care.
5. It's secondary purpose is to provide clarity and ensure consistency around the language of care and caring as, in some cases, different sectors of care are not clear about their duties under the relevant legislation, that the

duties of co-operation between agencies are not clearly understood, and that there are variations in understanding of some of the terms used.

5. Within Wiltshire, we would also hope that the MoU is a key document in setting out a commitment from all signatory organisations to work together in delivering on the Wiltshire Carers Strategy. Carer Support Wiltshire have been involved in the development of this MoU and support its implementation in Wiltshire. Spurgeons Young Carers also support the MoU. It has been circulated to all current members of the Wiltshire Carers Action Group including Wiltshire Parent Carer Council, hospices, acute hospitals and other statutory and voluntary organisations who provide support to carers in Wiltshire with a view to them being invited to sign up to the MoU following its adoption by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
6. The Council and the CCG have worked together on the commissioning of services for carers for over 5 years and there is a pooled budget in place which supports this. Progress had already been made against the principles within this new national MoU and this progress is detailed in Appendix 2 of this report.

Main Considerations

6. The national MoU published by NHS England, is a template to be adapted to suit local context and circumstances. Appendix 1 sets out a draft MoU for Wiltshire.
7. As outlined in the MoU, in order to fulfil our duties under the Care Act and Children and Families Act, local authorities, the NHS and third sector organisations that support carers must co-operate. The Care Act 2014 specifically requires local authorities and NHS organisations to do so. The MoU details the commitments which each member organisation of the Health and Wellbeing Board makes in order to meet this duty.
8. Within Wiltshire, the Wiltshire Carers' Action Group already exists and this would likely be the best forum to ensure that the principles within the MoU are applied and that the Wiltshire Carers Strategy is implemented. Work has been undertaken to review the membership of the Wiltshire Carers' Action Group to ensure it reflects membership across the whole health and social care system.

Recommendations

10. It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board
 - i) Notes the progress with regards to the draft Carers Strategy and Implementation Plan;
 - ii) Adopts the Memorandum of Understanding "An integrated approach to the identification and assessment of carers health and wellbeing needs" and commits to working together to deliver against the principles in the MoU.

- iii) Endorses the MoU as a document to which all partner organisations supporting carers in Wiltshire could sign to show their commitment to the principles set out within the document, and to the delivery of the Carers Strategy and Implementation Plan.

Sue Geary
Head of Community Commissioning
Wiltshire Council

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