

NHS Wiltshire
Carers Break Funding
HASCSC Task Group – 16 December 2010

1. Carers Support Service Funding

- 1.1 Funding levels for Carers Support agencies in Wiltshire currently totals £180,544 which includes two mental health carer support worker posts as shown below. This funding supports the delivery of services which maintain and improve carers' health and wellbeing, and being able to balance caring with a life of their own. Carers break activities such as days out, workshops and walking groups are delivered by the services, making a huge difference to carers as demonstrated in quotes from carers in North Wiltshire *'keeps me going', 'my only chance to have time to myself' and 'to have me time'*.

Carers Support Agency	Funding	Mental Health Support Worker
North Wiltshire Carers Support	34,192	22,455
West Wiltshire Carers Support	37,292	22,455
South Wiltshire Carers Support	28,000	Funded by Wiltshire Council
Kennet Carers	36,150	Funded by Wiltshire Council

- 1.2 A transition Board has been established to bring together the four services into one new equitable Carers Support Service for Wiltshire by summer 2011. This will allow the services to deliver the 25% savings Wiltshire Council have outlined must be made by 2013 through management cost savings, whilst preserving 'carer facing hours'. NHS Wiltshire has confirmed a sustained level of funding to Carers Support agencies for 2010/2011.

2. Additional Carers Support

- 2.1 In addition, NHS Wiltshire provides support to people with a caring role through the provision of mainstream health services, such as:
- mental health services
 - Primary care (GP) services
 - Neighbourhood teams
 - Acute hospital services

- 2.2 For people with continuing health care needs and long term conditions, NHS Wiltshire supports carers that need respite from their caring tasks by funding agency carers or respite placement where necessary. The Community Team for people with Learning Disabilities also funds respite for carers.
- 2.3 It is not possible to determine the proportion of carers that are supported through mainstream services because the way the information is captured is not proportionally broken down.

3. Future Developments

- 3.1 The national refresh of the Carers Strategy sets out the Government's priority for 2011-2015 to ensure maximum value for money. The 4 areas of priority & actions which are key activities:

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

Activities announced include:

- Department of Health (DH) will make £1m available to patient-led and condition-specific voluntary organisations to enable them to focus on supporting carers
- DH additional funding for GP training to improve carer awareness

b. Enabling those with caring responsibilities to fulfil their educational and employment potential

Activities announced include:

- Department of Education will make an Early Intervention Grant available to local government
- Department of Education will work with careers advice professionals, schools, colleges etc. to develop the first all-age careers service

c. Personalised support both for carers and those they support, enabling them to have a family and community life

Activities announced include:

- Councils to provide personalised budgets for those eligible
- NHS organisations to continue to develop and implement their local plans for improvement as part of the quality and improvement challenge

- Government to publish more details on relationship between GP consortia and councils allowing more and improved joining up of services

d. Supporting carers to remain mentally and physically well

Activities announced include:

- Government to make available to the NHS an additional £400 million to support carers to take breaks from their caring responsibilities over the next 4 years – announced on 16 November 2010, but with no further guidance at this time
- Government to publish a new mental health strategy setting out the outcomes that all users of mental health services can benefit from, including carers.

3.2 As yet there are no further details on a number of these activities, including the additional £400 million to support carers to take breaks. It has been stated that this money will not be ring fenced from the baseline budget provided to PCTs.

4. Next Steps

4.1 NHS Wiltshire in partnership with Wiltshire Council, Carers Support Agencies, GP practices and colleagues in other NHS Organisations and the voluntary sector has, and will continue to develop a number of projects and initiatives to improve services for carers locally which link to these four areas.

4.2 We will work together to complete the self assessment programme requested by NHS South West and to refresh our Wiltshire Carers Strategy in line with the latest national guidance and feedback from local carers and support agencies.

Susan Lambert
Community Engagement Manager
NHS Wiltshire