

Signing of the Carers Memorandum of Understanding

At the last meeting members of the Health and Wellbeing Board agreed to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding “an integrated approach to the identification and assessment of carers’ health and wellbeing needs” and commit to working together to deliver against the principles in the MoU.

Signing of the Memorandum took place today, shortly before the Health and Wellbeing Board, on 19 September 2017.

The Principles of the Carers’ Memorandum are as follows:

Principle 1 - Carers will receive an integrated package of support in order to maintain their physical health and emotional well-being

Principle 2 - Carers are supported and empowered to manage their caring role and their life outside of caring

Principle 3 - All health and social care staff will be aware of the needs of carers and of referral routes to access local support. NHS staff will recognise signs of distress and diminished capacity that may affect the ability or willingness of carers to continue caring, so that they can ask the carer if they are in need of support. NHS staff will also be aware of local carer support organisations so that the carer can be sign-posted.

Principle 4 - Carers will be supported by the improved sharing of information between health, social care, education professionals and carer support organisations.

Principle 5 - Carers will be respected as expert care partners and will be involved in the planning of care for the cared for, including being involved in shared decision-making, and in the planning and redesign of services.

Principle 6 - The needs of vulnerable carers, particularly those at key transition points, will be identified early.

An update on delivery against these principles was provided at the last meeting of the Wiltshire Health and Wellbeing Board and further updates on progress and delivery of the Wiltshire Carer’s Strategy will be provided at future meetings.

The Health and Wellbeing Board would like to put on record its thanks for all those who undertake vital caring responsibilities and will seek to support carers in the ways outlined above.