

Department of Health and Wellbeing

Carers Partnership

Chair: **Tony Sheeky, Health and Wellbeing**

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The purpose of the Carers Partnership is to improve the lives of carers in Bradford district and Craven by developing strategy, agreeing and progressing actions, and by sharing good practice.

The Carers Partnership will obtain and act on views expressed by carers from all parts of the district. It will undertake wide community engagement, actively seeking input from other formal and informal organisations and networks

Notes of the Carers Partnership meeting held on 28th July 2021 held on-line.

Item 1: Welcome, introductions, apologies and conflicts of interest.

Present at the meeting were:

**Bev Burne (Alzheimer's Society)
Carly Driscoll (BDCFT)
Cath Dew (CBMDC)
Hannah Brown (NYCC)
Louise Connors (PFBA)**

**Natasha Lawson (Action for Children)
Rashmi Sudhir (CCG)
Sally Townend (CBMDC)
Gavin Williams (Carers' Resource)
Tony Sheeky (CBMDC)**

Apologies were received from:

**Carol Beardmore (SNOOP)
Chris Whiley (Carers' Resource)
Isla Skinner (NHS)**

**Joyce Anderson (Equality Together)
Lou Bilenko (CBMDC)
Najum Saleem (CBMDC)**

Tony opened the meeting by apologising for the technical issues experienced with MS Teams and the delay in starting the meeting. He also made the members aware that Razwana Kauser, the CCG unpaid carer lead had taken up another role within the CCG and would no longer be taking part in partnership meetings. A replace CCG lead would be identified in the next few weeks.

Item 2: Minutes of the January meeting and matters arising/actions (All)

There were several action points in the minutes for the January meeting, most had been completed, still to complete are as follows;

Actions: MOU

Anna and Tony will take the MOU to a meeting of strategic leads in February.

This action will now be taken forward when the new CCG unpaid carer lead is identified.

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

Item 3: NYCC Advocacy Service Engagement

Hannah Brown briefly talked to a slide presentation on NYCC intentions to commission advocacy services. Hannah asked that members of the partnership make service their service users aware of the engagement activities being undertaken by NYCC and invite them to take part or respond through the online opportunities.

Action:

Tony to circulate the NYCC presentation slides and web links to partnership members.

Item 4: Resetting the Bradford Approach – Carers Strategy & Action Plan

Tony Sheeky talked to a slide presentation on the West Yorkshire & Harrogate Unpaid Carers Programme and the Bradford Carers Strategy Action Plan. The aim of the session being to reflect on both the programme and action plan and the impact of the Covid pandemic on carers and to what extent this will need to be revised to meet new and emerging needs.

Following the presentation, the meeting was open for discussion.

Gavin Williams commented that the issue isn't just the numbers of referrals, they are experiencing an increased complexity of carer needs due to Covid impacts e.g. increased mental health needs, demand for counselling support is in high demand, GP practices are unable to meet all this demand.

Carers Resource are seeing with increased financial issues among carers being referred, many have increased levels of credit or debt as a result of Covid at a time when access to debt advice is in general is in high demand. The potential for carer breakdown due to financial pressures have increased significantly, there is an increased risk of them giving up their caring role as they become ill e.g. from depression, stress and anxiety etc.

They are also seeing more carers who feel isolated, exhibit agoraphobia and are reluctant or lack the confidence to go out.

At this point Tony introduced feedback to the agenda item from Carol Beardmore who had given apologise for the meeting. Carol had agreed with the sentiment of Gavin's comments i.e. that the carers strategy needs to be reviewed in light of Covid impacts to identify interim actions to address these impacts as people return to services.

Cath Dew asked if we were aware of any additional funds that might be available to meet new and emerging needs.

Tony informed the meeting of additional funds that had been made available during the pandemic. This included IPC infection control funds that had been allocated to Carers Resource to distribute as small grants to carers e.g. to meet additional costs of PPE, delivery costs associated with shopping on line and use of taxi cabs rather than public transport and similar measures that reduce potential contact and the spread of Covid infection to unpaid carers. Also additional funds made available via Public Health and the CCG to support work with BAME communities. BAME communities being particularly impacted by Covid and 'long Covid'. This resource had been channelled through Carers Resource who are using the funds to increase penetration into BAME communities, produce leaflets and other materials in community languages etc.

Cath commented that we need to consider approaches that ensure we have a managed tail off in support. Suggested that we promote whole family approaches and early help interventions to any new and post Covid emerging support needs.

Bev Burne commented that the Alzheimer's Society had seen a rise in the number of carers impacted by increased levels of dementia symptoms experienced by people being cared for. Dementia symptom aggravated by isolation, fear of going out, lack or loss of confidence suggesting that respite where the carer and cared for can take a break together is likely to be in high demand, at least initially as we emerge from Covid.

Tony made the meeting aware of the recently commissioned Alternatives to Respite service delivered by Equality Together and suggested that we ask the provider to come to a future partnership meeting to present on what the service can offer carers.

Tony then suggested that to move the action plan forward the partnership should arrange task and finish style meetings for each of the action plan objectives. The purpose of these being to review and revise actions and priorities within the plan and agree responsibilities for identified deliverables.

Action:

Tony to;

- circulate the presentation slides
- circulate the current Action Plan spreadsheet
- invite Equality Together to a future meeting and circulate website links with the minutes.
- arrange invites to task and finish meetings.

Item 5: Updates

Gavin Williams update members on two Carers Resource initiatives;

They have a new allotment project in development, currently they are doing the groundwork to prepare for a September opening. It's based in BD1, is supported by a part time gardener post and it will be dementia friendly.

The second initiative is a pilot project providing counselling support. Carers Resource are currently in the process of securing additional funds to extend the pilot which is in partnership with Leeds Beckett University. IT hopes to provide 60 counselling session per week, counselling delivered by a qualified counsellor and a team of ten supervised Master Degree student counsellors from Leeds Beckett University. The potential start date for the extended project is July the 5th.

Bev Burne updated the meeting on Alzheimer's Society activities. They have seen a lot more carers during Covid. The Alzheimer's virtual offer to carers includes online and telephone based support e.g. their virtual café is still on running and they are now beginning to offer more face to face support.

Action:

Non

Item 6: A.O.B.

No other business items were raised. The meeting closed at 3.45 pm.