

Department of Health and Wellbeing

Carers Partnership

Chairs: Tony Sheeky, CBMDC Health and Wellbeing
Rashmi Sudhir, Bradford Clinical Commissioning Group

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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 September 2021 held on-line.

Item 1 and 2: Welcome, introductions, apologies and conflicts of interest.

Present at the meeting were:

Carly Driscoll (BDCFT)	Katy Swinhoe (NHS Wakefield CCG)
Cath Dew (CBMDC)	Joyce Anderson (Equality Together)
Sophie Tweed (CBMDC)	Ali Akbar Azam (CBMDC)
Miriam Khalifa (Carers Resource)	Isla Skinner (BDCFT)
Candy Squire-Watt (Carers Resource)	Laura Booth (BTHFT)
Mohammed Maboob (Carers Resource)	Rashmi Sudhir (CCG)
Louise Connors (PFBA)	Tony Sheeky (CBMDC)

Apologies were received from:

Carol Beardmore (SNOOP)	Bev Burne (Alzheimer's Society)
Chris Whiley (Carers' Resource)	Natasha Norman (Action for Children)
Gavin Williams (Carers' Resource)	Sally Townend (CBMDC)
Helen Thirkell (NYCC)	

No conflicts of interest were recorded.

Item 3: Guest Speaker, Joyce Anderson, Holibreak+

Joyce Anderson outlined what was on offer through the Holibreak+ service. The service is for unpaid carers and people with a disability that are in need of respite. This could be a

short break, a longer break or holiday e.g. a week or more or a day activity. The service is available to anyone with a personal budget, direct payment or self-funders. Essentially the service aims to provide alternatives to respite that are different from respite in a care home. Joyce will forward promotional material on the service. The meeting thanked Joyce for her presentation.

Actions:

Joyce to provide promotional material to Tony.

Tony to circulate flyers and contact details for the service with the minutes of the meeting.

Item 4: Minutes of the July meeting and matters arising/actions (All)

All actions had been completed or progressed, there were no matters arising. The minutes were accepted.

Actions:

No actions to take forward.

Item 5: Impact of Covid & Moving Forward

Rashmi led the meeting through a series of questions on Covid impacts using the Mentimeter survey tool. Members in attendance were asked to respond to six statements on the positive and negative impacts of Covid focusing on responses from a carer perspective.

Rashmi will arrange for the Mentimeter link to remain open so that members not attending the meeting today can contribute by responding to the questions outside the meeting.

Actions:

Rashmi to provide web link for post meeting contributions to Mentimeter exercise.

Tony to circulate the survey summary with the minutes.

Item 6: Carers Rights Day

Candy Squire-Watt talked to the meeting about the forthcoming Carers Rights Day. This year Carers Rights Day is Thursday the 25th of November, the theme for this year is 'Know Your Rights'. Candy asked members at the meeting for support to promote Carer Rights Day and if they were planning any events associated with the day to let Carers Resource have details of these, which would be promoted through Carers' Resource networks.

Actions:

Candy Squire-Watt to coordinate to meeting between Carers Resource, CCG, BDCT and the Council reps to coordinate coms on Carers Rights Day.

Tony and Rashmi to check timeline for any Council and CCG coms publications.

Item 7: Themed Discussion – Identifying Carers

Tony opened the discussion with a presentation on the current Carers Strategy Action Plan actions on improving the identification of unpaid carers. In the discussion that followed Partnership members were asked if the current actions were still appropriate, did any of the actions need revising, had members become aware of any new actions that might stem from Covid impacts on carers.

On Encourage all staff in health, social care and education to identify carers & On Encourage GPs to register carers.

Partners felt that many health, social care and education staff are still unaware of who and what is meant by the term unpaid carers', often only recognising those in receipt of Carers Allowance as carers. Parent Carers were particularly at risk of not being considered genuine carers, their caring role being considered as a 'parenting role' not caring role. Often terminology currently used is unhelpful by referencing to 'unpaid carer', better to ask people if they look after someone who wouldn't be able to cope without their help.

GP surgeries were identified as a particular area where carer recognition and identification was an issue. Also, response from Council Access Point was identified as a particular issue e.g. often not responding to requests for a carer Care Act assessment, reluctant to accept referral as a genuine carer and often unaware of definition of a carer.

Partners felt the action plan needs to be revised to include more specific actions to drive forward carer awareness training generally and specifically within the health, social care and education sectors. This could include the development of a Top Tips guide to identifying carers. This could be promoted to health, social care and education professionals who are often as unaware as the general population as to the definition of what is a carer.

Whatever form of carer awareness training is undertaken this needs to adopt better use of language (terminology) to define what an unpaid carer is e.g. ask do you look after someone who would be vulnerable without your help rather than, are you a carer?

On Carers Passport roll-out within BDCFT and other organisations

Carly and Isla confirmed this currently and successfully being rolled out within the BDCT. Tony made the meeting aware that early discussions about adopting a working carer passport within the Council have taken place.

Mohammed asked if any work had been done with the private sector, larger organisations e.g. supermarket chains. Tony confirmed that initial work with Bradford Chamber of Commerce and the SME's they represent started before Covid but had stalled when the pandemic hit, this could be revived.

On Introduction of Carers Card

Candy Squire-Watt confirmed that the roll out of the Carers Resource Carer Card was going well. Launched during the Covid pandemic it had proved useful to carers where they were asked to confirm they were a carer.

It was suggested that as we come out of Covid we might run a promotional campaign on this and other key supports for carers. Use partner networks to raise the profile of carers, use Council and CCG communication channels to get various carer focused messages out to the public.

On Increase awareness of young and parent carers in schools and colleges

It was suggested that whilst School Nurses are good at identifying young carers, unfortunately at present there are doubts about their capacity to do this. They would make ideal Young Carer Champions.

Here again the common theme of lack of awareness of what a (young) carer is was considered an issue, bespoke young carer awareness training was needed. Ideally delivered to and through a wide range of agencies; SENCO's, Early Help Coordinators, Family Hubs and possibly to school governor boards.

Rashmi was aware of work being done in schools pre Covid through CCG Mental Health Support Teams. She agreed to check the current position with MHST lead.

Actions:

Tony to circulate the agenda item slide presentation with the minutes; update the action plan log in line with the discussion notes above to add new and specific actions/tasks and circulate this to the group for comment and refinements.

Tony to coordinate and facilitate a Top Tips project group.

Rashmi to check on resumption of Carer Navigation work and current status of Mental Health Support Teams with CCG colleagues and update at next meeting.

Item 8: Updates

Action for Children Harrogate, Craven and Selby Young Carers have resumed one-to-one sessions in schools offering support to young carers. We are still offering walk and talks / garden visits to our young people which we also offered over the summer. We put on 6 group activities during the summer half term which were well attended and we received some positive feedback. Myself and my colleague Kate, completed the Blues Programme Training and we are currently in talks with our Practice Team Leader about how we will roll this out with targeted groups of young people. We are continuing with our activity planning and what trips and activities our young people would like to attend up to the end of the year.

BDCT Carer Development Group discussed the option to produce a specific BDCT carer strategy. After consideration, the group will be recommending to senior management that rather than develop a separate BDCT carer strategy, BDCT continues to adopt and support the Bradford district and Craven Strategy, to which they are already signed up and in doing so develop new and additional health focused actions to support the strategy and BDCT priorities.

Isla confirmed that the BDCT Carers Hub was still open for business. Due to Covid this still virtual rather than face to face but people can still contact the Hub for support using the answering service, Isla will provide contact details for members.

Actions:

BDCT Carers Hub contact details to be circulated with minutes.

Item 6: A.O.B.

No other business items were raised. The meeting closed at 4.15 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for 2.00 pm on Tuesday the 30th of November. This will be an MS Teams meeting, joining link below and sent out previously via email;

Microsoft Teams meeting

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