

**CARING TOGETHER  
2007 – 2009**

**CARERS' STRATEGY 2007 – 2009  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**'We respect and value carers, they do an amazing job.  
They are the hidden heroes in many of our communities.'**  
Ivan Lewis, Care Services Minister (2007)  
July 2007.

Forward

## **David Pearson Strategic Director - Adult Social Care & Health**

I am very pleased to introduce our Carers Strategy for 2007-2009. It is the result of extensive consultations and discussions with our partner agencies, our staff and most importantly, carers themselves.

More than 10% of the adult population of Nottinghamshire are providing unpaid care to relatives, friends and/or neighbours. We recognise the valuable contribution that adult carers make in enabling people to remain at home.

All carers have a right to have their views taken into account. Some carers will be entitled to an assessment of their needs for support – support that will enable us to care together for those who are in greatest need. For these carers, we have developed and will continue to provide breaks (respite care) services and assistance. But there is much else that we can do to meet both their own individual needs and also their support needs.

This Strategy identifies the many ways in which support services for adult carers can develop for all of the 83,181 carers identified in the 2001 census living in Nottinghamshire. Nearly a third of these carers (26,277) are caring for more than 20 hours per week. We will continue to work together with our partner agencies and carers' own organisations, with the aim of identifying all the carers in the County and aspire to provide them with appropriate support and care so that they can maintain their own health and personal well-being.

Within the Council we will strive to ensure that services to Carers:

- **actively promote independence and choice;**
- **treat carers with dignity, respecting individual cultures and lifestyles;**
- **are fair and consistent;**
- **are accessible to all carers and address the issues of social exclusion;**
- **are sufficiently flexible to meet individual needs;**
- **are capable of adapting quickly to changing circumstances**
- **meet diversity needs**
- **meet the needs of young carers**

While this is a Strategy for Nottinghamshire County Council in the first instance, we will strive to create a multi-agency Carers Strategy with all relevant partner agencies for the future. It is our aim to provide more effective and comprehensive support for all carers across the County.

## **Content**

The 2001 census identified over 83,000 carers in Nottinghamshire, of whom 9,062 care for between 20-49 hours a week & 17,215 over 50 hours per week.

### **The Objective of the Strategy**

Our overarching intention is *to enable Nottinghamshire Adult Care and Health to support carers in order to enable those who wish to, to continue providing care.*

#### **The strategy is centred around three key themes of:**

- Improving information for carers
- Increasing support for carers
- Increasing the numbers of breaks for carers

#### **The principal objectives are:**

- To identify carers through our assessment process and provide better information so carers can identify themselves
- To assist carers- through assessments, care plans and information, and to help them to receive support and have better outcomes
- To improve the take up of benefits and informing carers of their rights
- To improve services for carers to enable them to continue caring
- To increase the number of breaks for carers
- To support carers who are in work or wish to return to work
- To build upon our existing support and services to young carers with colleagues from the Children and Young Peoples department
- To increase take up of services from carers of Black and Ethnic Minority communities and to develop services that meet their needs.
- To continue to improve carers own health and wellbeing
- To learn from carers through assessment and consultation so that we can develop services together
- To develop our staff in order to raise awareness of carers issues and to improve assessment and care planning
- To encourage the take up of direct payments for those carers who wish to arrange and manage their own services.

## COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS FOR 2007-2009

To develop our commissioning intentions we have following budget available:

Carers Grant for all users groups.....£80,000 permanent  
 Additional Carers Grant for Emergency Services... £237,000 (To be confirmed)  
 Carers for Older People/Physical Disability ..... £554,709 permanent  
 Carers for people with Mental ill Health..... £40,000 temporary  
 Carers for people with a Learning Disability..... £40,000 temporary  
 Carers for people who have Asperger's Syndrome..£32,000 temporary  
 Carers for people with a Physical Disability.....£27,690 temporary  
 Carers for older people..... £26,036 temporary  
 Carers for Older People/Physical Disability ..... £90,098 temporary

Our commissioning intentions are set out below are classified into the following priorities:

- A developments we will do and can fund
- B developments we must do but where funding is not identified
- C development we would wish to do in the longer term

<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>Commitments &amp; intentions</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>	<b>Link to CSCI Outcome</b>
A	Enhance support to older carers particularly focusing on carers supporting older people with dementia and mental health problems. Increase the uptake of carers breaks and direct payments.	Within resources available to carers of older people services.	Improved health and emotional well-being
A	Extending the range of carers services to include further expansion of carer Assessment workers or additional funding of carers breaks and a better access to mainstream community services	Within available resources to carers of older people and physical disability.	Choice and control/personal dignity and respect
A	Increase the number of short breaks for carers of older people	Within available resources to carers of older people.	Improved health and emotional wellbeing

A	Increase the number of short breaks for carers of people with physical and sensory impairments	Within available resources to carers of people with a physical and sensory disability.	Improved health and emotional wellbeing
A	Develop carer support services for people with a learning disability in Mansfield and Ashfield	£20,000 Within resources available to carers of people with a learning disability.	Improved quality of life
A	Widen short breaks options for carers of people with a learning disability	Recruit an additional four Adult Placement short-break carers. Within resources available to carers of people with a learning disability.	Improved quality of life
C	Learning disability – develop short break service in Newark	To be determined	Improved health and emotional wellbeing
A	Mental health – to increase the number of full carers assessments undertaken by 25% in years 1 and 2	To increase and secure long-term funding to support promotion activities. To continue to support cross-agency funding and development of staff/carer training plans, CPA Audit and changes to recording will support delivery	Choice and control
A	Increase the number of short breaks for carers of people with learning disabilities	Within available resources to carers of people with a learning disability.	Improved health and wellbeing
A	Increase the number of short breaks for carers of people with mental ill health	Within available resources to carers of people with mental ill health	Improved health and wellbeing
A	Expand the support provided from carer specific services	Within the available £80,000 funding for carer specific services.	Improved health and wellbeing

A	Expand and improve the provision of information, advice, training and number of carers who benefit from the emergency card scheme	Within the available funding within the Carers Unit	Improved quality of life
B	Provide an emergency service for carers according to guidelines to be produced by the Adult Social Care and Health of Health	Anticipated funding from the Department of Health £237,000	Improved health and wellbeing
A	The Welfare Rights Team will work with the Carers Unit to increase the take up of benefits and support to carers	Within the available funding with the Carers Unit	Improved health and wellbeing
B	Exploration of a dedicated Welfare Rights post for carers	To be determined	Improved health and wellbeing
B	Increase the number of short breaks for carers of people with a head injury	Within available resources to carers of people with a physical disability.	Improved health and emotional wellbeing
A	Increase the number of short breaks for carers of people with autism	Within available resources to carers of people with a learning disability.	Improved health and emotional wellbeing
A	Audit existing carer support services to ascertain if these are adequately meeting the needs of carers of people with Asperger's syndrome.	Within available resources.	Improved health and emotional wellbeing
B	Develop Carers information and support service for carers of people with Aspergers Syndrome	£35,000 funding source to be identified	Improved health and emotional wellbeing

A	Provide community alarm equipment to provide some peace of mind for carers	£45,045 from Carers Specific budget	Improved quality of life
A	Establish 4 Carer Assessment Worker posts to increase the number of assessments and developments of services. One post will have countywide responsibilities to improve take up and the development of services for the BME communities	£180,000 from the Community Care Support Budget	Choice and control/personal dignity and respect

## HOW WILL WE KNOW IF WE ARE GETTING IT RIGHT?

### You will tell us.

We have collated a database of carers who are willing to be consulted about services. These consultations will not only involve meetings but may also take the form of questionnaires and telephone interviews.

We will listen to carers at forums established by ASCH and partner agencies.

We will review the appropriateness of existing services with carers and make suitable adjustments.

We will monitor quality standards of commissioned breaks schemes.

Annual performance targets will be set and measured and we are regularly monitored on our performance.

### The role of the County Carers Unit

The unit provides telephone information, advice and signposting to carers and staff as well as other enquirers. In addition the unit produces newsletters and leaflets providing information. The number of outlets for this information is being increased in order to ensure easier access for all carers.

The unit undertakes monitoring and development of the services commissioned from the carers grant. We will work closely with County Contact to examine the issues which carers bring to them and will ascertain what those issues are, so that we can seek better to address them.

The County Carers Unit may be contacted at: 3, Church Street, Arnold, Nottingham NG5 8FD, telephone: 0115 9671063 or email [carersunit.ss@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:carersunit.ss@nottsc.gov.uk)

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