

Health, Housing and Adult Social Care



Enfield Joint Carers Strategy 2013-2016 Executive Summary

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Carers in Enfield

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Executive Summary

- NHS Enfield and Enfield Council have jointly identified the improvement of Carers support as a key local priority.
- A carer is someone of any age who provides unpaid support to family or friends who could not manage without this help. This could be caring for a relative, partner or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or substance misuse problem.
- This strategy is a local response to the recommendations outlined in the National Carers Strategy – “Carers at the heart of 21st Century Families and communities: a caring system on your side, a life of your own”. The development of this strategy and implementation action plan has been informed by a series of consultations with carers and organisations who support and represent carers.
- Carers are the main resource available to the health and social care sector in Great Britain. There are 6 million carers nationally with over a fifth providing 50 hours plus care per week, and the delivery of high quality support including consideration of safeguarding issues for carers is vital to ensure the provision of good quality care and support for the millions they care for.
- The support of carers prevents admission and speeds up discharge from hospitals, and also prevents admission to care homes and reduces the demand for home care support. Therefore, given the future constraints on public sector finances, it is ever more pressing that we support carers to maintain their caring role, where they wish and are able to.
- In Enfield there are estimated to be nearly 29,000 carers. Many may provide limited care while others provide regular and substantial levels of care but all have a need for support of some kind to help them provide the best quality care possible while also ensuring their own needs and aspirations are met.
- This Carer Strategy covers the period 2013-2016. Its primary focus is on the needs of adult carers, though it does encompass the needs of younger carers. It will ensure a higher profile for carer issues amongst key decision making bodies, will deliver more equitable services across the borough, will support more carers to provide good quality care while enjoying a life of their own, and will ensure carers are more engaged in the delivery of care and support services provided for themselves or those they care for.
- The strategy is strongly based on achievement of outcomes that local carers have identified as important, and evaluation of the strategy will be largely based on assessment against these, using the Carers Hub auditing tool developed by the Princess Royal Trust for Carers.
- The strategy also reflects a commitment to the principle of co-production between commissioners, providers and users (carers) of services with regard to the identification of strategic priorities, the design of services, and the evaluation of performance and impact.
- Local strategic priorities for action have been set to enable us to meet these local and national outcomes, and these are to:
 - develop stronger governance structures for decision making concerning issues facing carers, by developing the Enfield Carers Centre as a representative body bringing together carers and support groups representing carers. To raise the profile of carer issues, ensure the active engagement of key partners in decision making, and encourage the allocation of adequate resources to deliver required support services
 - improve carer confidence in the quality of support available to them and the person they care for – in particular the flexibility and responsiveness of services to meet personal needs and aspirations, and the extent to which carers are engaged in decision making regarding the support provided.
- A major aim of the strategy is to increase the number of adult carers in Enfield who access information advice and low level support that enables them to manage their caring responsibilities in a sustainable way for the continued health and wellbeing of themselves and the person they care for.
- A priority is to ensure that carers currently under-represented amongst current services are targeted for support, whether they be from Black and Minority Ethnic communities or have caring responsibilities not traditionally addressed by social care services.
- Implementation and evaluation of the strategy will be overseen by the Carers Partnership Board.
- This strategy sets out how health and adult care services and commissioners will work together to improve the range and quality of local carers services; addressing issues that carers have identified as priorities.
- Carers can expect to be:
 - respected as expert care partners and will have access to the integrated and personalised services they need to support them in their caring role
 - able to have a life of their own alongside their caring role
 - supported so that they are not forced into financial hardship by their caring role
 - supported to stay mentally and physically well and treated with dignity
- and
 - children and young people will be protected from inappropriate caring and have the support they need to learn, develop and thrive, to enjoy positive childhoods and to achieve against the Enfield Children and Young People’s Plan.