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To: Adult Social Services Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee –
25 June 2010

Subject: **DRAFT KENT ANNUAL CARERS REPORT APRIL 2009-
MARCH 2010**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This is the second Kent Carers Annual Report. Its aim is to report the collaborative development of support provided to Carers across Kent since last years report.

Introduction

1. (1) This second year report (Appendix 1) provides a update of the picture of the support provided for Carers in Kent, and shows the combined contribution by the voluntary sector, Kent Adult Social Services, the NHS in Kent, private and the independent sector and Children's Social Services. The first Kent Carers Annual Report was presented to the Adult Social Services Policy Overview Committee in April 2009.

(2) The Carers Advisory Group, whose membership is drawn from key partners involved in the support of carers across Kent, discussed the contents of the draft Annual Report 2009/10 at its meeting on 22 June 2010. The Advisory Group continues to have a central role in the implementation of the Multi Agency Kent Adult Carers Strategy which was launched in 2009.

(3) The purpose of this report is to present the draft Kent Carers Annual Report 2009/10 to the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Kent Carers Annual Report 2009/10 informs the Committee about the carers policy and support landscape that has shaped the work that Kent Adult Social Services has undertaken in partnership with the various organisations to support both adult and young carers in the county. It sets out the national policy drivers and key performance measures. It captures in one place information about all carer-related activity.

Policy and Strategy Context

2. (1) The following key policies were introduced in the report provided to the committee for 2008/09 and remain unchanged from last years report:

- The White Paper 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say' 2006.
- The transformation of adult social care concordat, 'Putting People First' 2007
- The National Carers Strategy 2008 'Carers at the heart of 21st Century families and communities'
- Kent Adult Social Services 'Active Lives' 2007-2016

- The End of Life Care Strategy 2008
- The National Dementia Strategy 2009 “Living well with dementia: A National Dementia Strategy”

(2) Some of the notable key policies for 2009/10 include:

- Coalition Government Programme.
In common with other parts of the country we expect that new Coalition Government’s programme will influence how carers will be supported. The Queens Speech gave a flavour of what we can expect over the next 18 months but, as yet, we do not have all the information to work out the full implications for carers. This, no doubt will be taking forward in the course of the year.
- Carers Credit April 2010. This means that carers can have gaps in their NI record for some years and not get a reduced basic State Pension as a result.
- ‘Active Lives Now’ Strategy - sets out the Kent Adult Social Services priorities for the next three years , we worked with the public and partners to re-look at ‘Active Lives’.
- Guidance on Eligibility Criteria, Adult Social Care England 2010. The Guidance has been revised in order to reflect increased focus on personalisation and prevention as set out in Putting People First.
- Kent Adult Carers Strategy was published in July 2009 with the key aims of:
 - Information, Advise and Guidance for Carers
 - Access to integrated and personalised services for Carers
 - Carers having a life of their own
 - Carers not forced into financial hardship
 - Carers staying mentally and physically well

(3) Recent Engagement Events

- Carers and Personalisation event 1 April 2010 with tabletop discussions. The top three issues identified by Carers from each table are attached as Appendix 2.
- National Carers Week 14 June 2010. Partnership events included:
 - A Mobile Gateway Road Show. The six main Carers Organisations in Kent were offered the Mobile Gateway for one day, free of charge, to promote services in their area. Three of the organisations took up the offer and teamed up with Alzheimer’s Organisations, Education and Local District Councils in Folkestone, Swanley, Wye and Snodland.
 - West Kent KASS hosted a BME Summit in Maidstone which included a Carers Workshop.

Content and Format

3. (1) Members are asked to consider the content and format of the report, to make suggestions and comment to improve and further develop the report.

(2) The key areas of development for Kent Carers in 2009-2010 are:

- Implementation of Caring with Confidence
- West Kent Carers Strategy Demonstrator site
- Support for Deaf Carers Project
- Kent Dementiaweb and 24 Hour telephone support line
- Dementia care/crisis support service
- Access to Diagnosis and Support in BME Communities
- Support groups for friends and family members offering support to people who misuse substances
- Development of the Kent Adult Carers Strategy implementation groups
- Development of the Carers Joint Commissioning Group
- Publication of the 2008 Carers Survey
- Carers Evaluation of Services
- Implementation of the Carers Joint Needs Assessment
- Carers' Personal Health Budget East Kent Pilot
- Carer awareness training for professionals
- Development of the KASS Carers Assessment Policy
- Job Centre Plus Carers Employment Services

(3) Examples of the difference Carers Services have made to Carers:

- Kent Carers Emergency Card was recently used when a Maidstone Carer became ill and was taken to hospital. The card identified that he cared for his wife and his wife was found immediate respite care.
- Quotes from Carers attending the Carer Substance Misuse Support Group:

“This group helps you to think about yourself and take care of yourself, I haven't thought about me for years”.

“I feel I have support from people with similar experiences”.

“The group doesn't judge, I enjoy that”.

- Examples of short breaks and Carers having a life of their own as a result of the Carers Assessment Policy:
 - A Carer was able to pursue their interest in photography when he financed a photography course through the Carers one-off Direct Payment.
 - A Carer who was unable to leave the property due to caring responsibilities use the Carer one-off Payment to purchase a laptop for internet shopping.
 - A Carer providing 24 hour supervision used the Carers one-off Payment to finance a trip to visit his grandson and watch him graduate.

(4) NHS Support for Carers 2010/2011

- NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent have identified over one million pounds in their operating plan 2010/2011 and will work in partnership to ensure that the PCT additional resources compliment and build on the existing support provided to Carers.
- NHS West Kent will continue to build on the investment made to support carers in 2009/10 (which was nearly one million pounds). As outlined in their operating plan 2010/11, support for carers for people with dementia will particularly continue to be developed and a priority focus will be to ensure carers are more effectively identified and supported in primary and acute health care.

Conclusion

4. (1) Supporting carers in their role is a high priority as evidenced by the account in this year's Kent Carers Annual Report. Clearly this demonstrates the degree of collaborative working between statutory and non-statutory partners. We will continue to development responsive service and report to the Committee next year.

Recommendation

5. (1) Members of the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to:
- a) NOTE and COMMENT on the contents of the attached Kent Carers Annual Report, and
 - b) ENDORSE the Kent Carers Annual Report subject to changes put forward by the Committee.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Carers Annual Report

Appendix 2 - Issues identified by Carers at the Carers and Personalisation event
1 April 2010

Background Documents:

Kent Adult Carers Strategy

<https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/adult-Social-Services/carers/kent-carers-strategy-2008-2009.pdf>

Kent Adult Carers Annual Report 2008/2009.

<https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/adult-Social-Services/carers/CarersReport.2008-2009.pdf>

Kent Adult Social Services Active Lives

[http://knet2/directorates/adult-services/strategies-and-plans/active-lives/Final%20draft%20-%20Feb%2007%20\(2\).pdf](http://knet2/directorates/adult-services/strategies-and-plans/active-lives/Final%20draft%20-%20Feb%2007%20(2).pdf)

Living well with Dementia: a National Dementia Strategy

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_094058

Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities, a caring system on your side and a life of your own: A National Carers Strategy

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_085345

National End of Life Care Strategy – promoting high quality care for all adults at the end of life

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_086277