Dementia Select Committee – Hearing Sessions 9th March 2011

1.30 & 2.30

Suggested Themes and Questions for carers

Carers attending at 1.30 will be accompanied by representatives from the Carer Support Organisations they are in touch with (Judy Ayris and Judith Griffiths from Age Concern Canterbury and Barbara Hagan from Maidstone Carers). Each carer attending will be asked to introduce themselves and, if they would like to, outline their current situation (or their experiences in the past if they are a former carer). If time permits we will hear more about the work of the carer support organisations or this will be provided in writing later on.

Carers attending at 2.30 are attending independently but will follow the same themes. Lynda Longhurst will assist with facilitating the meetings. An introductory question is likely to be:

> *"Could you please tell us a little about yourself, the person you support and about your experiences in caring for them".*

If not covered by individual speakers, Select Committee Members may ask:

1. Did you know what to expect when you took on the caring role?
2. Were you given or were/are you able to find the information you need/needed?
3. When the person you care(d) for was diagnosed with dementia, what was this experience like for you both and what happened afterwards? Were things better once you knew the diagnosis?
4. Does the person you care for or did the person you cared for receive medication to alleviate the symptoms of their dementia? What follow up and monitoring was there?
5. Caring is not an easy task, do you feel that the important relationship between you and the person you care(d) for is/was well supported?
6. What has helped to improve your quality of life and that of the person you care(d) for - what did not or does not work so well? What has been helpful?
7. We hope you have seen the draft Terms of Reference and Scope for the review - what aspect do you think are the most important for us to focus on?
8. Do you have any other comments, suggestions or questions about the work we are doing - what would you like to come out of it?

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3.45

Ian Bainbridge, Deputy Director for Social Care & Local Partnerships, Department of Health South East

Biography

Ian Bainbridge has worked in Social Care since the late 1970s, initially as a social worker and subsequently in management. After a range of council positions in rural and urban settings in the South West and some experiments with joint agency working, he joined the Social Services Inspectorate. There he pursued, Inspection, Performance and lead responsibilities for aspects of Older People's work before returning to management, this time in the South East Region. With the creation of CSCI, Ian became Deputy Regional Director for London and latterly interim Regional Director before a further spell in council operations and strategy, heading up Adult Services in an environment of high urban deprivation. After an intensive period of modernisation and performance improvement, Ian returned to DH to take up the new post of Deputy Regional Director for Social Care and Partnerships in the South East. In addition to his responsibilities in the South East, Ian has a national role supporting regional implementation of the National Dementia Strategy and has maintained particular interests in the management of change, integrated Dementia services, Intermediate Care and the broader Older People's agenda.

Suggested themes and questions

1. Could you kindly introduce yourself and give a brief outline of the work you are currently involved in.

2. How are NHS organisations working with partners on implementing the National Dementia Strategy in Kent?

3. How are dementia services divided between 'social care' and 'health care' services and what is the impact of the current system on patients and their carers? Does this division lead to any waste, confusion or gaps in service provision?

4. In your experience, how well are we doing in Kent on implementing the NDS compared with other Local Authorities. Is Kent achieving particularly well on any aspects and is there work being done by other Local Authorities and their partners or elsewhere, internationally, that is believed to represent 'the way forward'?

5. Local Authorities have no specific performance requirement on improving dementia care – how will improvements be monitored?

6. What is your view about the role of the Big Society with regard to improving support for people with dementia and any people who may support them?