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To: Adult Social Services Policy Overview Committee – 1 April 2009

Subject: **KENT DRAFT ANNUAL CARERS REPORT APRIL 2008-  
MARCH 2009**

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: The first Carers Annual Report is attached (Appendix 1). Its aim is to report as a complete picture as possible the support that is provided for carers across Kent, showing 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.

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## Introduction

1. (1) Kent Adult Social Services' role is to ensure that carers are supported and have access to timely information, support to care which can include short breaks, practical assistance, emotional support and help to maintain their own health.

(2) To oversee the strategic development of the support offered to carers in Kent a long-standing Carers Advisory Group has been established. The group which is facilitated by Kent Adult Social Services includes representatives from all key partners involved in the support of carers across Kent. Membership includes policy makers and commissioners from Kent Adult Social Services, Children, Families and Education, Mental Health Commissioners, Carers' Support Organisations, the local NHS for West Kent and Eastern and Coastal Kent, the Job Centre Plus and other statutory and voluntary partners.

(3) One of the first tasks of the Carers Advisory Group has been to contribute to the development of the Multi Agency Kent Adult Carers Strategy. This Strategy is Kent's response to the implementation of the National Carers Strategy, and is attached as Appendix 2. This strategy complements and should be read in conjunction with 'Invisible People' Kent's Young Carers Strategy.

(4) The purpose of this report is to update the Policy Overview Committee about the policy and support landscape that informs the work that Kent Adult Social Service has undertaken in partnership with the various organisations to support both adult and young carers. It sets out the national policy drivers and key performance measures, and captures for the first time in one place information about all carer-related activity.

## **Policy and Strategy Context**

2. (1) The white paper Our Health, Our Care, Our Say, sets out the Government's vision of health and social care for all adults in England. It emphasises the importance of carers and Local Authorities responsibility to ensure that carers are central to this vision.

(2) The transformation of adult social care concordat, Putting People First states that 'family members and carers are to be treated as experts and care partners, other than in circumstances where their views and aspirations are at odds with the person using the service or they are seeking to deny a family member the chance to experience maximum choice and control over their own life.' It states that Local Authorities are to support programmes which enable carers to develop their skills and confidence.

(3) The National Carers Strategy 2008 'Carers at the heart of 21<sup>st</sup> Century families and communities', vision is that carers must, over the next 10 years, be elevated to the centre of family policy and receive the recognition and status they deserve. That reform must ensure carers experience a system which is on their side rather than enduring a constant struggle so that they are supported to have a life of their own alongside their caring responsibilities.

(4) Kent Adult Social Services' vision as stated in Active Lives is to give people more choice and control over their lives and encourage independent living, and again carers will be central to achieving this vision.

(5) The Department of Health published the "Living well with dementia: A National Dementia Strategy" on 3 February 2009. The Strategy acknowledges the importance of carers stating that "Family carers are the most important resource available for people with dementia". The strategy asks for active work to ensure that the provisions of the Carers' Strategy are available for carers of people with dementia and that the needs of carers for people with dementia are included as the strategy is implemented. See also agenda Item B4 which outlines the main points of the strategy.

(6) The End of Life Care Strategy published by the Department of Health in 2008 highlighted the vital role that the carers of a person, who is approaching the end of their life, can have in enabling that person to die in the place of their choice. "Carers should be closely involved in decision making, recognising that they will also have their own needs". The strategy stated that carers need information about the likely progress of the person's condition and information about services that are available. They may well also need practical and emotional support both during the person's life and after bereavement.

## **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, noting that this is the first attempt to draw together a comprehensive whole system picture of all the support provided to carers across Kent.

## Recommendation

4. (1) Members of the Policy Overview Committee are asked to:
  - a) NOTE and COMMENT on the contents of the attached report, and
  - b) Following any suggested alterations, ENDORSE the report and AGREE to it being printed and distributed.

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### Appendices:

Appendix 1 Carers Annual Report  
Appendix 2 Multi Agency Kent Adult Carers Strategy

### *Background Documents:*

Living well with Dementia: a National Dementia Strategy  
[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_094058](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_094058)

Carers at the heart of 21<sup>st</sup> century families and communities, a caring system on your side and I life of your own: A National Carers Strategy  
[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_085345](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](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_086277)