
SUPPORT TO CARERS

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on the operation of the Darlington Carers Support contract and the recently published national Carers Action Plan 2018 -20.

Summary

2. The Darlington Carers Support contract is performing well and the number of carers being supported is increasing.
3. Darlington is well placed to develop a response to the newly published national Carers Action Plan, which can build on and expand work that is already in progress. Work on an updated Darlington Carers Action Plan is in progress.

Recommendation

4. It is recommended that :-
 - (a) Members note the content of this report
 - (b) The updated Darlington Carers Action Plan is shared with members following its completion.

Suzanne Joyner
Director of Children and Adult Services

Background Papers

National Carers Action Plan 2018-20

Lisa Holdsworth : Extension 5861

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no crime and disorder implications in this report.
Health and Well Being	Carers can experience poor health as a result of their caring responsibilities. Identifying and supporting carers contributes to supporting

	their health and wellbeing and the health and wellbeing of the people for whom they care.
Carbon Impact	There are no carbon impact implications in this report.
Diversity	Caring affects all groups of people in Darlington.
Wards Affected	All wards are affected.
Groups Affected	Carers are the group primarily affected.
Budget and Policy Framework	This decision does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Supporting carers contributes to supporting the 'One Darlington' Healthy Darlington theme.
Efficiency	Research published by Carers UK in 2015 indicates that unpaid carers in Darlington provide support to the value of £224 million.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report does not impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

5. Darlington Carers Support (the contracted provider of carers support for adult carers) has been in place since 1st May 2017. It offers a range of support including 1:1 support, carers groups and activities and personalised breaks. As at 30th June 2018, there were 850 carers on the register, an increase of 515 from the 335 carers who agreed for their details to be transferred from the previous carers support provider. On average, 55 referrals per month are being received from a wide range of sources including GP surgeries, voluntary and community sector services, Adult Social Care and West Park Hospital. A considerable number of self-referrals are also received. Quarterly contract monitoring meetings take place at which performance data is considered and plans are made to address any gaps identified.

6. The national Carers Action Plan 2018-20 was published on 5th June 2018 and sets out the cross-government programme of work to support carers over the next 2 years. It is structured around 5 themes, each of which includes a number of subheadings :
 - (a) services and systems that work for carers - raising awareness of and promoting best practice amongst health professionals; raising awareness amongst social workers; supporting requirements of the 2014 Care Act and the 2014 Children and Families Act; personalisation; Mental Health Act 1983 and supporting carers

 - (b) employment and financial wellbeing - improve working practices; flexible working; returning to work; financial support

- (c) supporting young carers - identification of young carers; improving educational opportunities and outcomes; improving access to support services; transition for young adult carers
 - (d) recognising and supporting carers in the wider community and society - technology and innovation; recognition of carers; community engagement; loneliness
 - (e) building research and evidence to improve outcomes for carers - research to improve the evidence base
7. Darlington's Carers' Strategy Steering Group meets 6 weekly and is co-chaired by Darlington Carers Support and Humankind Young Carers Service. The aims of the group are to:
- (a) produce a local action plan for carers following the publication of the national Carers Action Plan
 - (b) work together to reach out to hidden carers and underrepresented groups to ensure they can access support
 - (c) influence commissioning of services for carers and the people they care for by consultation and information gathering, networking and highlighting unmet needs
 - (d) work together to ensure support and services for carers complement each other and to progress opportunities for partnership working
 - (e) hear the voices of a representative range of carers with lived experience both within the meeting and through wider networks and use these to influence the work of the group

The group is currently developing a Darlington response to the new national Carers Action Plan. This will be structured under the same themes as the national Carers Action Plan and will outline actions to be taken locally to progress the carers agenda in Darlington. Meetings are scheduled for 21st August, 2nd October and 13th November 2018. The work that Darlington had completed previously in respect of Darlington's Carers Action Plan 2017-18 puts us in a strong position to deliver on the requirements of the new national Carers Action Plan 2018- 20 which focuses on many of the areas where work is currently in progress.

Outcome of Consultation

8. Darlington's response to the national Carers Action Plan will be co-produced and carers' views will be sought during the process. The response will be completed by December 2018.