

**Dementia Action Alliance – The Carers Call to Action.**

**Agenda item 8**

Date	28 January 2015																
Board Sponsor	Dr Richard Harling																
Author	Jenny Dalloway – Lead Commissioner Mental Health and Dementia																
Relevance of paper	<p><b>Priorities</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Older people &amp; long term conditions</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mental health &amp; well-being</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Obesity</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alcohol</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other (specify below) - Carers</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Groups of particular interest</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Children &amp; young people</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Communities &amp; groups with poor health outcomes</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>People with learning disabilities</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> </table>	Older people & long term conditions	Yes	Mental health & well-being	Yes	Obesity	No	Alcohol	No	Other (specify below) - Carers	Yes	Children & young people	Yes	Communities & groups with poor health outcomes	Yes	People with learning disabilities	Yes
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Item for	Decision																
Recommendation	<p><b>1. That the Health and Well-being Board is asked to:</b></p> <p><b>a) Sign up to the Carer's Call to Action (CC2A); and</b></p> <p><b>b) Note the ambition for two thirds of Health and Wellbeing Boards, CCGs and Local Government to recognize the importance of support for carers of people with dementia (by signing the CC2A).</b></p>																
Background	<p><b>2. The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP Secretary of State for Health wrote to all Health &amp; Wellbeing Boards recently:</b></p> <p>‘I want to encourage you to sign up to the Call to Action. The Department of Health, Public Health England and NHS England have all signed up and together we can improve the lives of over half a million</p>																

carers of people with dementia'

## Call to Action

3. It is estimated that one in three people will care for a person with dementia in their lifetime and the number of people with dementia is set to double in the next 30 years. The Prime Minister made his personal commitment to improve the lives of people living with the condition including their families in his Challenge on Dementia (DH, 2012).
4. Two thirds of people with dementia are cared for at home by family or friends. The challenge recognises that unpaid carers of people with dementia save the economy £7 billion a year, yet the evidence shows that carers struggle to care for the person with dementia leading to avoidable crises in care, hospital admissions or early entry into a care home which are very costly (World Alzheimer's Report, 2013).
5. With a push to increase diagnosis rates we must also prioritise post diagnosis support. The diagnosis is given not just to the individual but their spouse, family and friends.
6. A number of organisations within Worcestershire have signed up to the Dementia Action Alliance, developing their own action plans for implementation. The Dementia Friends campaign, supported by public health, also has growing support.
7. There now needs to be a focus on the needs of carers of people with dementia. Carers have the right to expert advice, information and support in their own right, if they receive these then their own health and wellbeing will be maintained for longer as well as benefit to the person they care for.
8. The Board is asked to sign up to the campaign and the five aims of the shared vision to demonstrate that we will consider the needs of family carers of people with dementia in Worcestershire. The campaign wants to empower families living with dementia to have a voice to support local meaningful engagement to work with us to find the most appropriate and pragmatic local solutions.

## Five aims

9. The five aims of the campaign are below that carers of people with Dementia;
  - have recognition of their **unique experience**
  - are recognised as **essential partners** in care - valuing their knowledge and the support they provide to

	<p>enable the person with dementia to live well</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have access to expertise in dementia care for personalised information, advice, support and co-ordination of care for the <b>person with dementia</b></li> <li>• have assessments and support to identify the on-going and changing needs to maintain <b>their own health and well-being</b></li> <li>• have <b>confidence</b> that they are able to access good quality care, support and respite services that are flexible, culturally appropriate, timely and provided by skilled staff <b>for both the carer and the person for whom they care.</b></li> </ul>
<p>Action already underway</p>	<p>10. We are already commissioning services with a specific remit of supporting carers of people living with dementia including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Onside - young onset Dementia support service</li> <li>• Age UK - Dementia Advisor service</li> <li>• Admiral Nursing Service - specialist dementia nurses who give practical and emotional support to family carers</li> <li>• Alzheimer's Society - Peer support services through Dementia Cafés.</li> </ul> <p>11. There are a number of training and support programmes available for carers provided by AgeUK and the Alzheimers Society.</p> <p>12. The Worcestershire Association of Carers helpline is able to provide support to people supporting individuals living with dementia.</p>
<p>Impact of signing up the Carer's Call to Action</p>	<p>13. Signing up to the Carer's Call to Action will provide a checklist for commissioners to adopt to ensure that carers are supported throughout the care pathway of the person living with dementia. This will form an improvement plan to support full implementation of the local Dementia Strategy.</p>
<p>Appendix 1</p>	<p>Carers' Call to Action Overview</p>