

Carers' Strategy for Worcestershire - update

Agenda item 14

Date	28 January 2015																
Board Sponsor	Dr Richard Harling, Director of Adult Services and Health																
Author	Richard Keble, Head of Joint Commissioning																
Relevance of paper	<p>Priorities</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Older people & long term conditions</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mental health & 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)</td> <td>No</td> </tr> </table> <p>Groups of particular interest</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Children & young people</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Communities & 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)	No	Children & young people	Yes	Communities & groups with poor health outcomes	Yes	People with learning disabilities	Yes
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Item for	Information and assurance																
Recommendation	<p>1. The Health and Well-being Board is asked to note progress on consultation and development of the Carers' Strategy.</p>																
Background	<p>2. The Health and Well Being Board received a report about the proposed Carers' Strategy for Worcestershire in November 2014. This Strategy was the result of work undertaken by a working group consisting of family carers, representatives of voluntary sector organisations and officers of Worcestershire County Council.</p> <p>3. Concerns were expressed by family carers' representatives that the draft Strategy did not adequately reflect the work previously undertaken by the working group and the breadth of national guidance and best practice. In particular they suggested that the strategy should reflect support for young carers.</p>																

Next Steps

4. After some discussion the Board
 - Agreed to extend the consultation period to 12 weeks;
 - Authorised consultation on this Strategy and requested that a progress report on the extended consultation, the Young Carers' Strategy and the potential to develop an all age Carers' Strategy be brought back to the Board in January 2015 for consideration; and
 - Requested that the final strategy(ies) be brought back for consideration and sign off in March 2015.

5. As part of the consultation, family carers' representatives put forward some amendments to be made before the Strategy went out for wider public consultation. They met with Health Watch Worcestershire along with the Cabinet Member for Responsibility for Health and Well-being and officers from the County Council's Adult Services and Health and Children's Services to discuss these – in summary they included:
 - Specific Reference to the NHS Forward Plan 2015/16 included;
 - Duty to assess young carers included;
 - Young carers now specifically mentioned in the document;
 - Parent carers (of children with disabilities) referenced;
 - An wider definition of carers included (in addition to the Care Act 2014 definition);
 - Stronger emphasis on co-production with carers as per HWB work stream on co-production;
 - Inclusion of specific young carers outcomes; and a
 - Commitment to a memorandum of understanding between Adult and Children's Services to ensure that at both strategic and operational better coordination is taking place.

6. These amendments have now been made and agreed. The amended version now covers carers of all ages so a separate Young Carers' Strategy is no longer required.

7. A report will be brought back to the Health and Well Being Board in March to outline the outcome of consultation and the final version of the new Carers' Strategy for Worcestershire.