

MEETING:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND STRATEGIC HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	31ST MARCH 2010
TITLE OF REPORT:	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE AND ACTION PLAN FOLLOWING THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE SUPPORT TO CARERS IN HEREFORDSHIRE
PORTFOLIO AREA:	OLDER PEOPLE & ADULT SOCIAL CARE

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide.

Purpose

To consider Cabinet's response to the recommendations made to it in the Scrutiny Review of Carers' Services in Herefordshire.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendation

- THAT (a) Cabinet's response to the findings of the Scrutiny Review of Carers' Services in Herefordshire be noted, subject to any comments the Committee wish to make; and**
- (b) A further report on progress against the action plan be made after six months with consideration then being given to the need for any further report being made.**

Key Points Summary

- The Cabinet Member's response to each recommendation is set out in Appendix 1.
- The recommendations are agreed or agreed in principle, with the exception of two which are outlined in the action plan response.

Alternative Options

- 1 That scrutiny does not accept the response from the Herefordshire Council executive.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 To complete the process of the Carers Review outlining which recommendations have been accepted.

Introduction and Background

- 3 On 24 July 2008, the Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Committee established a group to review support for Carers' in Herefordshire. The Review Group worked against a background of the Government agenda for 'Putting People First' through personalisation, individualised budgets and self-directed care and 'Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities: a caring system on your side, a life of your own', published in 2008
- 4 The Committee considered the final report of the review of support for carers in Herefordshire on 30 October 2009 and approved its recommendations.
- 5 At its meeting on 18 March 2010, Cabinet agreed the recommendations as set out in the report to it
- 6 In accordance with the scrutiny process the Committee needs to consider Cabinet's response and assess whether a further report on progress against the action plan is required.

Key Considerations

- 7 Carers provide a vital role that underpins the whole of the health and social care economy.
- 8 The number of carers is predicted to increase over the next 16-17 years, due to the projected increase in the number of people aged over 65, increase in the number of people with learning disabilities reaching adulthood or suffering dementia and the numbers of people with health and care needs that will be supported in their own homes.
- 9 The numbers of carers providing 1-19 hours of care per week is expected to remain fairly constant, with relatively small changes, first upwards until 2021 and then downwards to 2026. However, the number of carers providing between 20-49 hours per week and those providing more than 50 hours is predicted to increase steadily over the period of the projections.
- 10 Government funding to statutory bodies (previously provided as a ring fenced Carers grant, now subsumed in the ABG) is expected to be constrained over the foreseeable future, which will require commissioners to ensure investment in carers services is seen as a significant element of delivering increasingly better value for money.
- 11 It is envisaged that personal budgets will be an important area of development for Commissioners throughout 2010.

Community Impact

- 18 Carers play a major role in providing support and care for some of the most frail and vulnerable people in our community.
- 19 It is acknowledged that without their support, many people's independence would be threatened and this would lead to increased pressure on many statutory and voluntary services throughout the county.

- 20 Conversely, supporting carers through effective services ensures that their own health and well being needs are addressed and as citizens in their own right, this is an important consideration for commissioners of statutory services.

Financial Implications

- 21 All costs must be met from within agreed budgets if the response to the recommendations is accepted.

Legal Implications

- 9 Not applicable to this report.

Risk Management

- 10 The challenging financial future faced by public services is likely to place increased pressure on funding for carers services and support during a period of an expected increase in both the number of carers and the amount of care they provide. The opportunity will be taken during the development of the forthcoming Carers Commissioning Strategy to explore with carers innovative ways to meet their needs in a context of tightening finances.

Appendices

- 12 Appendix 1 Action Plan in response to the Recommendations arising from Scrutiny review.

Background Papers

- None identified