

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND STRATEGIC HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2011</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>ACTION PLAN UPDATE: SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE SUPPORT TO CARERS IN HEREFORDSHIRE</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO AREA:</b>	<b>ADULT SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH &amp; WELLBEING</b>

**CLASSIFICATION:** Open

## **Purpose**

To inform the Committee of progress in implementing the Action Plan arising from the Scrutiny Review of Support to Carers in Herefordshire.

## **Recommendation(s)**

**THAT the Committee note the update and progress made on the action plan to deliver the Recommendations and Actions.**

## **Key Points Summary**

- This is a follow-up to the presentation made to Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Committee on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2010 of the Carers action plan and its progress against the recommendations as approved by Cabinet on 18 March 2010.

## **Alternative Options**

- 1 None.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 2 The Action Plan demonstrated that actions are underway or have been completed. In light of the new Government policy on carers and their contribution towards the 'big society', Herefordshire Council Integrated Commissioning will be ensuring that the role of carers will form part of the vision for Health and Social Care services in 2011 as a priority area for continuous improvement. The views of carers and the role of organisations such as Herefordshire Carers Support will be paramount in ensuring that the right services are available to meet carers needs.

## **Introduction and Background**

- 3 A Scrutiny Review Group presented their report on the review of Support for carers in Herefordshire to Scrutiny Committee on the 30 October 2009 which was approved and submitted to cabinet. Cabinet approved twenty out of twenty-one actions on the 18 March 2010. A progress report was presented to Scrutiny on the 13 December 2010 and this report is a further update eight months after the action plan was implemented.

## **Key Considerations**

- 4 The new Adult Social Care white paper 'Capable Communities and Active Citizens' was published in November 2010. This places a greater emphasis on the roles of carers and suggests that carers should have more choice and control over the social care they receive. In addition, the Government has also published 'Recognised, valued and supported: Next steps for the Carers Strategy in November 2010. Both of these documents will have an impact on the agreed actions and further recommendations will be developed as a result in the forthcoming months.
- 5 The Comprehensive Spending Review announcement in October will result in the removal of the Carers Grant in 2011/12 that the Council had received, adding to the current financial pressures of the Council. The main impact will be allocating sufficient resource for the commissioned services that previously utilised the Carers Grant. Although the services are greatly valued, the resource allocation outcome is not possible to state at present until the Council receives further information on its settlement later in December and budget setting has been set.

## **Community Impact**

- 7 Performance against this action plan will affect the provision for services for carers in Herefordshire.

## **Financial Implications**

- 8 The commissioned services that are in receipt of the Carers Grant may be at risk due to the end of the funding stream and the financial pressures of the Council.

## **Legal Implications**

- 9 Not applicable at this stage.

## **Risk Management**

- 10 None identified.

## **Consultees**

- 11 None

## **Appendices**

- 12 Update on the action plan attached.

## **Background Papers**

- Scrutiny Report of the support to carers in Herefordshire (October 2009)
- Cabinet Response to the Scrutiny Review of the Support to carers in Herefordshire and Executive Action Plan (March 2010)
- Progress Report on the Action Plan for the Scrutiny Review of the support to Carers in Herefordshire (December 2010).