

REPORT TO ADULT SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

12 JULY 2011

BY HEAD OF STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING

CARERS DEMONSTRATOR SITE: CARERS BREAKS AND OPPORTUNITIES FUND

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide a progress update to the Board regarding the Department of Health carers demonstrator site project.

2. UPDATE

- 2.1 The carers demonstrator site project - the Sunderland Carers Breaks and Opportunities Fund has been operational since January 2010. This project was funded by the Department of Health until March 2011 to test out new ways of offering personalised breaks to carers.
- 2.2 A national evaluation of the Demonstrator Sites is taking place and Sunderland is a case study site. The National Evaluation Team visited Sunderland in early November 2010 and interviewed key staff from across the Directorate and the Carers Centre who are involved in delivering and managing the project and also carers who are involved in the approving the applications. The information gathered during the national evaluation will be reported in September 2011 and will be used to inform provision for carers nationally.
- 2.3 Following the successful local mid project review the decision has been taken to continue funding the project after the end of the Department of Health funding as a mainstream service.
- 2.4 The format of the Service will remain largely the same. Sunderland Carers' Centre will continue to administer the project and each application will be submitted to a panel consisting of Team Managers and Carers for evaluation and approval. A review will be completed with the carer four weeks after the break or opportunity to determine whether the break has been satisfactory. The information gathered from these reviews will be monitored by the Directorate. A Steering Group has taken the place of the Consortium to oversee the service and shape the direction for the future.

2.5 The final local evaluation of the project showed that:

- 590 breaks were accessed during the life of the project by 573 carers
- 99% of carers were 'at least' very satisfied with the break/opportunity provided at the first review and 98% felt they had achieved the outcome goals which were defined at the time of their application during the second review.
- 10 carers from BME communities accessed breaks, this equates to 1.7% of all carers applying for breaks.
- The key benefits reported by carers were: allowing carers time for themselves, providing a break from the same routine and the cared for person/caring role, providing relief from stress, relaxation and the opportunity to do something for themselves rather than the person they care for.
- The Demonstrator Site feels very different to any other support and services previously or currently available to carers and this is one of the positive aspects of the project. For example this is particularly around the flexibility of the service which has allowed things to be done that aren't normally possible

2.6 Appendix 1 is the final project evaluation for information.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Board is requested to receive this report for information.