

ADULT SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

10 JUNE 2008

Update on the Development of Sunderland Carers Strategy

Report of the Head of Performance, Commissioning and Change

1. Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the report is to update the Partnership Board on progress in relation to the development of Sunderland's Multi-agency Carers Strategy.

2. Background

The New Deal for Carers announced the development of a national Carers Strategy. In Sunderland, the Partnership Board gave its commitment to support the development of a Sunderland multi-agency strategy.

3. Progress to Date

The first meeting of the Strategy Group was held in early May and was chaired by the Head of Performance, Commissioning and Change from Health, Housing and Adult Services. All partners from health and social care agencies were represented, along with key organisations from the voluntary sector who are involved in supporting carers, Children's Services and partners from other Council directorates. The meeting was used to begin scoping how the agencies present already support carers and it was apparent that a lot of work is already taking place in the city, however it needs co-ordinating through the development of the strategy. The meeting also discussed some of the practical elements of developing the strategy.

The overall aim of the strategy is to enable carers to have an ordinary life and it will include the following themes:

- Employment
- Economic well-being
- Training, Education and Lifelong learning
- Health
- Wellness
- Advice and Information
- Involving Carers
- Social Care
- Young Carers
- Parent Carers
- Specialist Groups i.e. BME carers

Partners from the Group have been identified to take the lead on specific areas of the strategy and it is expected that by the next meeting at the end of June, much of the work around developing the strategy's action plan will be well underway.

4. Recommendations

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