

Report by Graham King, Head of Performance, Commissioning and Change

Update on the development of Sunderland's Carers Strategy

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to share with the Partnership Board the draft Carers Strategy and to outline the consultation process.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Board received a first draft of the Strategy in July for information.

3. Current Position: The consultation process

- 3.1 A draft of the Strategy is almost complete and the consultation process is planned to run from January to March.
- 3.2 Initial consultation with carers was undertaken during Carers Week in 2007, when carers were asked what they thought the themes of the strategy should be and what issues they wanted the strategy to address. These views, alongside the national carers strategy have informed the development of the draft strategy. Therefore, the key objective of the consultation is to seek confirmation from carers that what they told us in 2007 has been accurately reflected in the strategy – that we listened and got it right. We will also be raising awareness of the strategy with frontline staff, partners and significant bodies to ensure that there is a commitment to delivering the strategy.

3.3 Consulting with Carers

- 3.3.1 For carers, a summary of the strategy will be produced outlining the key messages, the purpose and vision; the outcomes and examples of how we will achieve the vision for carers. This will be distributed to carers via carer support organisations; the Local Involvement Network and the Community Network. The consultation will also be publicised through the local press, Council and NHS websites and voluntary sector organisations. Carers will be asked to comment on 5 key questions:

1. Do you agree with the Vision for carers?
2. Do you agree with the 13 outcomes that we have identified to enable carers to realise an ordinary life?
3. If you do not agree with any of the outcomes, what would you like to see changed?
4. Is there anything missing in the strategy or the outcomes that you would like to see included?

5. Do you think that it is clear how we will achieve the vision for carers?

3.4 Consulting with Staff

3.4.1 A series of focus groups will be arranged with frontline staff to raise awareness of the strategy and communicate where staff have a role in its delivery. The objective of this part of the consultation is to gain support from staff who have a key role in the implementation and ultimately, the success of the strategy. This will include staff within Health, Housing and Adult Services; PCT Commissioning Directorate; PCT Provider Directorates; City Hospitals Sunderland, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Trust and other directorates within the Council.

3.5 Consulting with partners and significant bodies

3.5.1 A copy of the full strategy will be distributed to partners across the city. The objective of this is to raise awareness of the strategy and to seek commitment to its delivery. This will include:

- Councillors, including Members of Parliament
- Health and Well-being Review Committee
- Health, Housing and Adult Services Directorate
- PCT; City Hospitals and Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Trust Boards
- Sunderland Partnership
- Adult Social Care Partnership Board

3.5.2 It is hoped that as a result of the consultation, awareness will be raised about who is carer and what they do and it may also enable people to recognise themselves, or someone they know, as a carer.

4. The Strategy – next steps

4.1 The consultation period will run from January to March. After which, the feedback from the consultation will be sent out to all those who took part and the strategy will be updated, where appropriate. The strategy will then go through the relevant processes for endorsement. It is aimed that the final strategy will be formally launched during Carers Week in 2009.

5. Recommendations

5.1 The Partnership Board is requested to: -

- Receive this report for information
- Agree the consultation process

Joanne Thynne
November 2008