

ADULT SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

13 SEPTEMBER 2011

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CARERS STRATEGY; RECOGNISED, VALUED AND SUPPORTED

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide an update to the Board regarding the Carers Strategy in relation to the national refresh and request discussion regarding the implementation of the strategy at a local level.

2. UPDATE

- 2.1 The refreshed national Carers' Strategy – "Recognised, valued and supported" – gives Sunderland an opportunity to revise the local strategy rather than just refresh it. This is particularly important because of Council and NHS re-structuring and the new ways of working, including Sunderland's commitment to implementing personalization. In the light of the above any such revision should be overseen by a new Multi Agency Carers Strategy Partnership operating at a strategic level which could then decide on the appropriateness or otherwise of an implementation group and its remit.
- 2.2 The Adult Social Care Partnership Board has responsibility for the Carers' Strategy but there is no longer a strategic group, only an implementation group, to report to the Board. Similarly, with restructuring there is not a multi-agency group which includes carers at a strategic level focusing only on carer issues. The revision would allow us to address this.
- 2.3 It is questionable whether the delivery plan needs to echo the Sunderland plan in the way it has done as the thematic partnerships are all in the process of change. It would enable the simplification of the implementation plan, with fewer but clearer priorities and with greater clarity about accountability, if the format could be changed.
- 2.4 Set out in the attached file (Appendix 1) are some priorities and tasks which Sunderland Carers' Centre would like to see included but only if any new plan is owned by a strategic partnership which includes carers.

- 2.5 There has been a great deal of excellent work carried out by individuals and teams however, the strategic overview seems to have been lost and the current Implementation Group is powerless to hold others to account if they are not fulfilling their commitments

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

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