



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

ADULT SERVICES AND HEALTH COMMISSION 19 JANUARY 2009

Report of the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Services

CARERS SUPPORT SERVICES

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The level of support offered to family / friends who provide informal care for others is critical in enabling people to continue to live at home, and enjoy the best possible quality of life. Informal carers (family, friends) provide care willingly because of their relationship to the cared for person, but often need support themselves to enable them to continue to do so.
- 1.2 It is estimated that around 7,500 adults in Derby provide 20 hours per week or more of care / support to a friend or relative. Without this support it is highly likely that significant additional local authority funded services would be required.
- 1.3 It is estimated that a further 15,300 adults in Derby provide care to family or friends for up to 20 hours per week.
- 1.4 Research suggests that caring for another person for 20 hours per week has a significant impact on the quality of life and health / well-being of the carer. Local Authorities and NHS organisations should therefore ensure support is available to the carer.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Commission support the development of a Carers Strategy 2009 – 2012.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 For several years Social Services support for carers has been measured by a Performance Indicator. This measures the number of carers supported (through a carers assessment and the provision of a service) divided by the number of people the local authority supports by community care services. Our performance in Derby, whilst in the average band, has historically been lower than our comparators and neighbour authorities. In 2007 / 8 we were the second poorest performer in our comparator group (we currently support around 700 carers).

07 / 08 Performance Comparison – Carers Services

IPF Group	% of carers supported		E Mids Group	% of carers supported
Peterborough	6.5%		Derby	8.0%
Derby	8.0%		Lincolnshire	8.7%
Swindon	10.1%		Nottingham	10.6%
Stockton on Tees	10.1%		Leicestershire	12.0%
Bolton	10.1%		Nottinghamshire	12.7%
Wakefield	10.2%		Leicester	13.1%
Stoke on Trent	10.9%		Derbyshire	16.3%
Walsall	11.0%		Northamptonshire	
Coventry	11.9%		Rutland	
Darlington	13.5%		EM Average	11.6%
Wolverhampton	14.3%			
Dudley	16.0%			
Kirklees	16.1%			
Calderdale	17.2%			
St Helens	21.6%			
Rotherham				
IPF average	12.5%			

- 3.2 Our performance in relation to carers support is in contrast to our performance across other indicators. We have not improved in this area over recent years, and in order to do so now we need to provide more leadership and focus to this issue.
- 3.3 In order to improve performance we are in the process of developing a new Carers Strategy for the period 2009 – 12. This contains commitments to extend services and increase the number of carers who receive support, and will therefore require increased investment over this period. The draft strategy is attached as Appendix 2 (available as a separate document). The consultation period will take place between January and March 2009.
- 3.4 Carers support is now measured through the new National Indicator Set, and is included as a priority in Derby's Local Area Agreement. Performance on carers support will therefore impact on the overall performance assessment for the Council in future years.

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Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Draft Carers Strategy

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 Increased investment in carers support will be required for 2009 – 2012.

Legal

- 2.1 None arising from this report.

Personnel

- 3.1 None arising from this report.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 None arising from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 5.1 This report links to the following Council priorities:
- support everyone in learning and achievement
 - help us all to be healthy, active and independent
 - excellent services and value for money.