

Carers Partnership Board Notes

Tuesday 12th November 2024

1) Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

- The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Present:
 - Independent Members from Cambridgeshire x 7
 - Independent Member from Peterborough x 1
 - VCSE sector representative x 4
 - Peterborough City Council Commissioning x 1
 - Peterborough City Council Service delivery x 2
 - Cambridgeshire County Council service delivery x 2
 - Cambridgeshire County Council Commissioning x 0
 - Speakers x 2
- Apologies were received

Karen Kelley, Strategic Operational Lead for Carers at Peterborough City Council was invited to introduce herself to the Partnership Board.

2) Feedback from Independent Members

A) Social Worker, not their social worker but that of someone who had had a joint care package with their cared for, contacted appointee for information on a Friday afternoon that was needed for the Monday by close of business as they were leaving Cambridgeshire County Council. The Partnership Board member wanted to know i) why they were being asked for information on such a short notice ii) why didn't the social worker know the way that care packages operated iii) how would they be able to complain about a social worker who was not their own?

Action: Laura Green, Cambridgeshire County Council, will take this experience back to the Operational Group and Quality and Practice Managers so that it can be looked at.

B) Contacted by the Department for Work and Pensions to attend a meeting about claiming for Universal Credit. Discovered on attendance that as they were a pensioner they were not eligible for Universal Credit.

C) Participates in the Health Equity Centre which at the start of the summer was asked by NHS England to use AI research tools to look at research, this has resulted in information which will hopefully save the NHS money.

Action: share information once received from the participant.

D) Participated in a workshop with Cambridgeshire County Council and was offered a voucher by way of compensation. The process of applying for the voucher and then where it can be spent was online and a complicated process. They felt that this was not helpful for participants who are digitally excluded.

Action: Carol Williams, Cambridgeshire County Council, will take this back to colleagues at the County Council.

E) Parent carer to adult with highly functioning autism who is struggling to find work, feels that the job centre is not being helpful. Suggestions by other Partnership Board members were contacting: Waythrough (used to be known as Richmond Fellowship), Papworth Trust, Salvation Army – organisations who either run, or have previously run, projects that help people into the workplace.

F) Parent Carer to an adult advised that his son is currently on Disability Living Allowance, but has been told he is being transferred to Universal Credit. He wanted to know and if he could challenge this.

Action: Graham Lewis will look into this further.

3) Minutes of the previous meeting and Action Log

- The minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2024 were approved.

- The Action Log was reviewed.

4) Update from All Age Carers Service

Making Space are taking with Centre 33 to explore how they can increase/improve the number of referrals of Young Adult Carers as they transition at age 25.

Updates from Caring Together and Centre 33 were received by email and circulated.

5) Results of the Adult Carers Survey 2023

Carol Williams (Cambridgeshire County Council) and Tina Hornsby (Peterborough City Council) gave a comprehensive presentation on this survey.

The survey is carried out every 2 years and every local authority in England participates, so there are two surveys – Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Surveys were sent out to a sample of Carers, selected by a criteria set by NHS England.

The survey asked a fixed set of questions across the country; however, local authorities were able to add 4 questions, and these were chosen in consultation with the Carers Partnership Board.

It's not possible to compare Peterborough and Cambridgeshire directly due to differences in the demographics of the areas, and Peterborough primarily being an urban authority, whilst Cambridgeshire is generally rural. The Council's do compare themselves to their previous results to understand people's experiences. It was noted that the 2023 survey sample had a much lower percentage of learning disability support as the cared-for primary support reason in 2023 compared to 2021.

It was noted that in 21/22 Cambridgeshire 60.2% of Carers were quite to extremely satisfied with the services provided to their cared for, whilst in 23/24

this had increased to 68.2% an increase of 8%. Whilst in Peterborough 21/22 59.9% of carers were quite to extremely satisfied with services provided to their cared for, which increased to 70.6% in 23/24, an increase of 9.5%.

Q) Are autistic people included in the Learning Disability group?

A) If they also have a Learning Disability yes, if they only have an autism diagnosis no.

Q) Is the survey representative?

A) As Council's they recognise the limitations of the survey in that not all people contacted wanted to respond, not everyone is supported by Adult Social Care. Many carers don't recognise themselves as carers, they are parent, spouse, sibling, friend etc.

The Department of Health and Social Care use the national data to support work streams across England.

Learning difficulties are experienced without any effect of intellectual ability.
Learning disabilities have an impact on intellectual ability.

Action: presentation to be circulated.

6) Update from Social Care Commissioners and Operational Leads

Micheil Wilson, Peterborough City Council Commissioner, advised that they are participating in the 'working together for change' programme and information will be circulated. Carol Williams for Cambridgeshire County Council, stated that the County Council had participated in this programme in July. As a result, Graeme Hodgson, Commissioner at the County Council, is offering seed funding grants for carers groups.

Laura Green, Cambridgeshire County Council, advised that the Council had been through a process to recruit apprentice social workers. After a robust process with many high-quality applications, 20 people have been appointed and will be starting in January 2025. Laura also advised that the Palliative Care Training and Skill project will be updated in the new year.

7) Update from Adult Social Care Forum and other meetings

Due to time considerations this update will be circulated by email.

8) Any Other Business

Carers Rights Day is on Thursday 21st November 2024.

Peterborough City Council advised that Bridgit website for carers is now available online and has been soft launched in the city. The Peterborough Information Network website has been updated.

Date of next meeting

Date: Tuesday 14th January 2025

Time: 11am to 1pm, Pre-meeting for Independent Members from 10am.

Venue: Online Via Zoom and Maple Centre, Huntingdon.