

Cabinet Member - Health and Social Care Report

Cabinet – 5th August 2010

Sefton Carers Strategy 2010-2013

On the 23rd June 2010 the above strategy, and action plans pertaining to each part of the strategy, was agreed.

Sefton has a strong history of excellent support for carers most notably acknowledged by gaining Beacon Status for the theme of “Supporting Carers” 2005/06.

In 2008, the Government launched a refreshed Carers strategy “Carers at the Heart of 21st Century families and communities: a caring system on your side a life of your own” which outlines the vision for carers support for the next decade. The overall aims of the strategy are to:

- Ensure that carers are treated as equal partner in care
- Carers and the people they care for are given greater choice and control over their lives
- Carers will be supported to remain in or return to work
- Carers have greater access to breaks, learning and leisure
- Carers are supported to take care of their own health and well-being as well as the person they care for
- Young Carers should not have to take on inappropriate levels of caring that can affect attendance at school or their emotional and physical well-being

The Sefton Carers Strategy 2010-2013 has been developed in partnership between Sefton Council Adult Social Care & Children, Schools & Families Services; NHS Sefton; Princess Royal Trust Sefton Carers Centre; Job Centre Plus; Sefton Council for Voluntary Services and a range of voluntary sector partners who are part of the Sefton Health and Social Care Forum.

The strategy focuses on the legislation and policy (both national and local) which drives forward the need to support unpaid carers whose contribution is worth at least 6 billion pounds to the economy (Source Carers UK).

The strategy reflects on how local support services for carers in Sefton have developed as a result of listening to the views and experiences of carers from Sefton and the key objectives for the next three years most notably :

- **Improving access to information** – with new developments such as the NHS “Looking Local” Service
- **Improving health-** including access to health improvement support such as smoking cessation, weight management and alcohol reduction support services
- **Choice and Control-** ensuring carers are regarded as equal partners in care as part of the personalisation and person centred planning process

- **Improving economic well-being** – focusing on the new support for carers from Job Centre Plus
- **Training and support to care-** Sefton Carers Centre are delivering the “Caring with Confidence” program over the next two years. This initiative aims to help a breakdown in the caring relationship as well as a range of practical advice to help carers maximise their own personal development

This strategy will be monitored by the Carers strategy implementation group and Sefton Transforming Social Care Expert Stakeholder panel.

Patients in Merseyside in control of own healthcare

Merseyside has been named amongst the first eight areas in the country that will be able to offer direct payments for healthcare to individuals as part of a new programme that will let patients decide what care is best for them.

The Department of Health’s announcement means that up to 75 patients in Sefton, Liverpool and Knowsley could be able to access direct payments for personal health budgets.

This will allow the three Primary Care Trusts in those areas - NHS Sefton, Liverpool PCT and NHS Knowsley, together with MerseyCare NHS Trust - to give a set amount of money to some patients involved in the pilot directly to them, so they can decide how, where and from whom they receive their healthcare, in partnership with the local NHS. The aim is to improve their experience and the effectiveness of their care and to give individuals as much control over their healthcare as is appropriate for them.

Personal health budgets are intended to be used for a range of things to meet people’s health and wellbeing needs. This might include exercise equipment or gym membership to help patients achieve better outcomes allowing them to choose how they can best meet their health objectives. It could also fund ongoing packages of support that cannot be provided by their local NHS.

Initially, people using mental health services in Sefton, Liverpool and Knowsley will be identified to try out the new scheme, but this could be extended to more groups of patients if it is found to be successful.

Personal health budgets put control of healthcare in patients’ hands. They have already been used successfully in social care, and it is expected that the new scheme will make a real difference to patients.

NHS Sefton is leading the pilot on behalf of the three Merseyside PCT’s. Deputy Director of Strategy and Service Development, Tina Wilkins, said: “We are excited at being one of the first pilot sites to be able to offer direct payments to individuals. Personal Health Budgets are a way of allowing people more control over how money is spent on their healthcare and the pilot builds on positive lessons learned from direct payments and personal budgets in social care.”

The new pilot also builds on successful work carried out by Mersey Care NHS Trust, who piloted personal health budgets to help people with their recovery.

Jenny Robb, Deputy Director of Social Care at Merseycare NHS Trust, said: "We already have people accessing personal health budgets in Merseyside with good results. It's great news that the pilot has been extended to allow people to access direct payments, which will give them even greater control about what they need from their healthcare to meet their health objectives."

This new scheme will be closely monitored. It is hoped that the learning from the pilot can be used to benefit people across Merseyside in the future. As those involved in the pilot are already accessing health services, there will be no additional cost to the local NHS.

Tina added: "Direct payments have been used in social care for a number of years and have shown real results. We are delighted that people using mental health services in Merseyside will be able to benefit from a similar scheme."

Tina concluded: "Personal budgets won't be the answer for everyone, but we believe that this will change some people's lives for the better by giving them more control over their own care."

Adult Social Care Conference 2010

Adult Social Care Department once again held its annual staff conference during June 2010. The focus of this year's conference was transformation and the customer journey.

Margaret Carney, Chief Executive, was unable to attend the conference but sent a message via a pre-recorded DVD.

Margaret spoke about the need to put customers at the centre of everything we do, offering services that represent value for money. In addition she recognised the work already undertaken through the 'No Wrong Door' policy and is keen to see the report from the Ability Group on the impact this policy is having for Sefton citizens.

Charlie Barker, Strategic Director for the Social Care and Wellbeing Directorate also explained his role within the new Directorate and how working more closely with Leisure and Community Safety will further complement and support the work of Adult Social Care.

Nicola Butterworth, Business Support and Monitoring Officer, gave an update on progress with regards to purchasing an improved system to replace SWIFT (client database) and better support the business across all areas, particularly with personalization agenda. She also confirmed that in the near future, the sharing of records with health colleagues will be enabled via a secure link.

A number of carers and recipients of Direct Payments spoke on DVD about the support they had been given to access Direct Payments and the opportunities to enhance their own lives or the lives of their family members.

There were some very powerful messages given through these stories and I would like to acknowledge the work of our Adult Social Care and Direct Payments teams in making the journey towards Direct Payments possible.

Councillor Brenda Porter
Health and Social Care Cabinet Member