

Working together



Carlisle Working Together Forum Old Town Hall 21st July 2009

This month's topics:

Carers Strategy and Emergency Card for Carers

Carers Strategy:

In June 2008 the government launched the 'Carers at the Heart of 21st Century Families and Communities'. The document included recommendations and actions in support of carers:

- Regular, planned respite breaks.
- Annual Health checks for Carers.
- Cover for Carers attending hospital appointments.
- Greater awareness amongst employers for flexible working and recruitment of Carers.
- Hospital and medical staff to treat Carers as experts.
- Closer joint working between Health and Social Care services.
- A National helpline.
- Emergency/Crisis breaks cover.

The full report can be accessed on line from the Department of Health website www.dh.gov.uk

Each county is responsible for developing their own Carers Strategy to implement the above action points. Cumbria have produced their strategy along with an action plan which is being distributed throughout the county for consultation and feedback. The main areas include:

Breaks for Carers

- Creative breaks

Emergency Breaks

Emotional Support

- Specialist support groups
- Increase support for end of life care and Dementia

Employment and Learning

- Balancing work and caring

Former Carers



- Support

Health and Well being

- provide annual health checks for Carers

Discharge planning – make sure carers involved

Training for Carers and people working with Carers

- Caring with confidence – national programme
- Make training about carers mandatory for key staff in organisations (including health staff)

Carers Emergency Card:

The emergency card is available to any carer with an assessment. The card is carried by the carer and should anything happen to them which means that they cannot provide care, emergency services or others would use the card to contact a 24hour response centre to make sure the cared for person is looked after.

When applying for the card a plan is made to make sure that the person cared for receives the right support. This may include contacting a named person who can sit with the person or up to 72 hours of free care from Adult Social Care. The plan would also include where medication is kept; specific needs; organising kennels for pets etc.

Accessing the card can be done through your local Carers organisation.

Carlisle Carers Association

Fusehill Medical Centre 1st Floor

Fusehill Street

CARLISLE

Cumbria

CA1 2HE 01228 542156

Discussion:

It was felt that the topics within the action plan reflected the current needs of carers.

Carlisle and Furness Carers Services now have a Carers Employment Services Worker. They work with carers who are currently employed or would like to get into work or training.

Service Updates:

Age Concern Macmillan Service work with older people and their carers who are living with cancer. The service hopes to identify gaps in provision; develop support groups; activity groups and one-to-one support. Current gaps already identified are support between diagnosis and treatment; support at the end of treatment; befriending and information dissemination.

ICAS are still busy providing advocacy to people who are going through complaints processes within health and social care. Home visiting is available and they provide information and signposting to other services.

Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 15th September 2009

Carlisle Old Town Hall