



Carers Partnership Board Meeting

Date: 14th of March 2024

Time: 18:00

Venue: Online via Microsoft Teams

Attendee	Role
Charlotte Walton	Chair and Director of Adult Social Care (CW&C)
Susan Walsh	Co-Chair and Carer Representative
Steven Arnold	Commissioning Manger (CW&C)
Victoria Shaw	Commissioning Officer (CW&C)
Dorothy Jump	Carer Representative
Beth Harrison	Neurotherapy Centre
Steve Henshaw	Commissioning Manger (CW&C)
Carey Cavenagh	ChAP's / Carer Representative
David Harvey	Cheshire Warrington Carers Trust
Alan Jones	Cheshire Young Carers
Cath Magee	Making Space
John Violet	Carer Representative
Yolanda Baker	Carer Lead Liaison Officer (CW&C)
Robert Jones	Equality and Diversity Manager (CW&C)
Yvonne Johnson	Making Space
Meleen Rivington	Boughton Medical Group
Angharrad Walters	Carer Representative
Suzanne Rhodes	End of Life Partnership (EOLP)
Apologies	
Councillor Sheila Little	Councillor representing Carers
Joanne Foster	Care Connector Cheshire Community Action
Gill Martin	Making Space
Jane Colville	Older People Active Lives (OPAL)
Rob Robertson	Carer Representative
France Underhill	End of Life Partnership
Jill Cox	Hospice of the good shepherd
James George	Hospice of the good shepherd
Tom Skerrat	Integrated Care Board

	Discussion	Actions
1.	Welcome and Introductions – Charlotte Walton Apologies were received	
2.	Actions from Previous Meeting – Steven Arnold <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers charter went out for comments before the 8th of December. • Steve will give further updates on Commissioning team restructure. • Links and papers were all sent on the 1st of December. John if the November meeting was quorate with Carer attendance. Steve explained a couple of organisation representatives also have dual role as carers.	

	<p>Action: Yolanda requested any persons with a dual role to let her know if they are happy to be noted for their organisation and as a carer before the next meeting.</p>	YB
3.	<p>Adult Social Care Strategy Consultation – Charlotte Walton Charlotte noted that all links and information were sent out by Steve to the group regarding the Enabling Great lives Our ASC Strategy consultation. This is intended to be an overarching strategy and brings into one vision the outcomes from the Future of Adult Social Care commission and previous engagement and co-production activities. We would really encourage and value your feedback about the strategy as it touches on all areas that have been highlighted as being important to people within the Borough. Could all members please give feedback via the various consultation channels. Due to pre-election period (starting on the 18th of March and running until the 2nd of May) a lot of face-to-face engagement and promotion has already been done. However, Cheshire West Voluntary Action (CWVA) will continue to carry out co-production and engagement work during this period. and further face-to-face engagement opportunities will be available after 2nd May. Action: Yolanda to organise a consultation session for carers Yolanda will also recirculate the links sent by Steve for the Enabling Great Lives Strategy Consultation.</p>	YB/CW/SW YB
4.	<p>Young Carers Update – Alan Jones Cheshire Young Carers In the last few months, we ran our Christmas programme for the Young Carers which due to the Christmas break ran into January. Last half term we had residentials one was at Delamere, to prepare the Young Carers going to Euro Camp and Disneyland Paris, we will be taking 35 young carers from Cheshire West in the Easter holiday. Supporting schools across the borough has increased, a lot of schools are engaging with Cheshire Young Carers around transitioning young carers from Year 6 to Year 7. To help prepare and nurture the young carers as they switch settings from Primary to Secondary. Steven noted a lot of positive feedback about the young carers service from colleagues and Yvonne echoed this giving a great example.</p>	
5.	<p>Adult Carer Groups Update – David Harvey Cheshire West Carer Support Service David shared the update circulated on Wednesday. Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between October and December, a total of 1714 carers were directly supported across cheshire west and Chester, this included 544 new carers coming into the service. A monthly average for the Carers Service is around 150/160 new carers per month. • An increasing number of working carers engage with their managers about being a carer and have identified that they would like activities Monday to Friday and to request time off work rather than evenings and weekends. • Telephone helpline numbers for each quarter stay steady – October to December 2023 (last quarter) being 783 calls via the telephone helpline. However, seeing a significant increase in online helpline support, last quarter it was 436 people accessing the service via the website or email. • The Respite service now sits back with the Council however some staff in Adult Social Care are still making referrals to the Cheshire West Carer Support Service – could this be raised within social care? • Household Support Fund has been extended for six months. In the last 2.5 years CWCT have distributed almost £0.25 million to carers in Cheshire West. Working with Cheshire Young Carers to distribute vouchers to 100 young carers across the Borough. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male Carers Group the Chester group has run for 18 months now. The Northwich group had two false starts but working with Gill from Making Space to create an embryonic Male Carers Group in Northwich meeting at lunchtime. • CWCT survey has just been released – it’s a great way to gather Carer feedback – to provide an update next board meeting. <p>Discussions were raised by Carers regarding graphic representation of the figures, Charlotte agreed an overall year end picture of the service would be great.</p> <p>Action: David to produce a year-end report including graphs, and an overview of carer demographics and services across the borough including identifying potential gaps.</p> <p>Steve also acknowledged the great support CWCT has provided to the Carer Assessment Pilot, Household Support funding, Parent Carer support and the Accelerating Reform Fund.</p> <p>Charlotte reiterated applaud their support and noted that a joint Council, CWCT and Young Carers Service review would be beneficial. Highlighting statistics, demographics, reach of services, and current and potential growth of services. This could also include local and national statistics for comparison. Steve noted this could be released for Carers Week –</p> <p>Action: - Yolanda to bring a group together.</p>	<p>DH</p> <p>YB</p>
	<p>Accelerating Reform Fund Update – Steven Arnold</p> <p>Steve updated that working with all 9 Cheshire and Merseyside Local Authorities and Integrated Care Board (ICB) Colleagues an Expression of Interest was submitted to the Department of Health and Social Care for the Accelerating Reform Fund in December 2023. All nine Local Authorities in Cheshire and Merseyside agreed that the funding will focus on Unpaid Carers.</p> <p>There are two area of focus – the first is a digital platform to widen the identification of carers and give support through that platform including digital resources and self-help routes, this will aid in not exacerbating commissioned carer services.</p> <p>Secondly increasing access to Carer Breaks, to give carers a break from the caring role/respite. We have held a couple of workshops and a few people from the Partnership Board and Strategy Group came along so thank you. The importance of safety for the cared for and confidence in the person looking after the cared for person is paramount. So, we are looking at developing Shared Lives – we will be developing another specification around this and will be looking at further inclusion from this group. Knowsley, Wirral, and the whole of Greater Manchester are also focussing on Shared Lives.</p> <p>Charlotte Walton is the Senior Representative Officer for this project and Cheshire West and Chester will be the accountable body for this project.</p> <p>All 22 Local Authorities in the North West have prioritised Carers and 13 of the 22 are focussing on Shared Lives and learning from each other – the Board will be kept updated on this.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Carers Charter Development</p> <p>Steve updated on the Carers Charter, this Charter is part of the All-Age Carers Action Plan, in January 2023 the Greater Manchester Charter was brought to the Board as a great example. Since then, we have had two workshops and a development day, at the November Board we signed off the Charter (version 6). It now looks very different from the example charter shared back in January 2023! Well done to all.</p> <p>Governance – the Charter has been approved through the ICBs DMT and Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC) Councils DMT governance processes. Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a webpage for the QR code to link to. • Carers Partnership Board, ICB (including hospitals), CWaC, CWaC affiliated businesses, Colleges, and Schools to sign up to the Charter. • CWaC will launch this during Carers Week but will have key partners working on this too. 	

	<p>This is a Borough wide Charter co-produced by the Partnership Board and is an important achievement.</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>John commented whilst this is a great piece of work Cheshire and Merseyside ICB have also released a Carers Charter wont two be confusing? Yolanda noted that the ICB have agreed to promote our charter, and this is Borough Wide whereas the ICB is NHS focused and regional. Sue updated the lack of ICB/NHS representation at meetings and noted that Schools have their own mottos/statements, but the Education Authority has its own plan covering a vast area.</p> <p>The Carers Week theme is “Putting Carers on the Map”.</p> <p>a Charter launch would fit the theme nicely this year.</p> <p>Action: Steve and Yolanda to action all of the above</p> <p>Action: All Board members asked to support promotion and sign up to the charter</p>	<p>SA/YB All</p>
7.	<p>Carers Strategy Update – Susan Walsh</p> <p>Sue Walsh updated the group met face to face on the 10th of January in HQ Chester, with a hybrid option available.</p> <p>The focus of the meeting was Priority One which included an in-depth overview of the Carers Assessment Pilot.</p> <p>Yolanda created and sent a guide to Tom Skerit regarding the Carer Champion Training available to Hospital staff, to encourage more people to access it online.</p> <p>Action: The Group agreed regular contact from ICB was missing and Steve will action this.</p> <p>Next meeting is on the 19th of March in Wyvern House Winsford, the focus will be Priority Two including Carer Confident Kitemark action, Young Carers Actions and Self-employed Carer identification.</p> <p>We will also look at Carer Engagement promotion Yolanda and Sue have met to discuss the webpage which will be discussed further at the meeting.</p>	<p>SA</p>
8	<p>Commissioning Team Update – Steven Arnold</p> <p>Steven updated that following a restructure and investment in the Commissioning team some roles were changing.</p> <p>Steven Arnold will move from Commissioning manager for the Prevention Portfolio to Children and Families Commissioning Portfolio Manager.</p> <p>Yolanda Baker will move from the Prevention Portfolio to Children and Families as Commissioning Portfolio Lead.</p> <p>Steve introduces the following colleagues</p> <p>Steve Henshaw who will assume the role of Prevention Commissioning Portfolio Manager – and Victoria Shaw who will continue in the Prevention Portfolio as Commissioning Portfolio Lead</p> <p>The Carer Liaison Officer role has been deleted with the roles and responsibilities being absorbed by the new Commissioning Support Portfolio Officer – who has been appointed and will be in post in April 2024.</p> <p>Steve and Yolanda will support Steve and Victoria with the transfer of responsibilities.</p> <p>Young Carers services will move over to Children and Families with Steven Arnold and Yolanda Baker both of whom will remain members of the Board.</p> <p>The board thanked Steve and Yolanda for their significant contribution to the board and carers services and welcomes Steve and Victoria.</p>	
9.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Hospital Discharge update – Steven Arnold</p> <p>The project is up and running with the assistance of Cheshire West Carer Support Service. A dedicated worker links in with the discharge teams, so carers are getting contacted within a target of 6 days of either theirs, or the cared for persons discharge</p> 	

	<p>(currently its within 4 days). The funding also targets rural areas where OPAL and Neston Youth Centre are working with carers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carers Assessment Pilot update – Victoria Shaw The pilot is now entering Phase 2 -the Community Access Team will triage Carer Assessment requests and forward them to the Cheshire West Carer Support Service where appropriate. They will send completed assessments back to the Community Access Team who will follow up on any actions, either closing the assessment as it has been fulfilled by the Carer Service or forwarding on to the appropriate team following the Carers Services recommendations. Victoria noted the depth and knowledge in the Assessments is fantastic, the quality is first rate. And working with the Carers Service, with the dedicated workers has been great. Carer Support – John Violet John raised the issue of lack of carer support when a caring role ends, or a caring role continues but the cared for is in residential or a nursing home. He has spoken with other carers in the support group who also feel this is an issue. David updated that the Cheshire West Support Service will give support for 12 months following the end of a caring role but recognises carers who care for people in nursing or residential settings still as carers. Dorothy will take this to the Carers Strategy Meeting next week. Charlotte agrees this should be taken to the Strategy group and look at what happens next, this is a wider focussed piece of work that needs doing. John agreed and wanted this on the agenda for the next Partnership Board too. 	<p>DJ YB</p>
	<p>Closing Address – Charlotte Walton and Sue Walsh Thanked everyone for staying late, and valued the discussions held within the group. Date of Next Meeting: Date: tbc Time: 6-8pm Location: online</p>	