

SCRUTINY REPORT



MEETING: Health Scrutiny Committee
DATE: 14th March 2023
SUBJECT: Carers Sub-Group Update Report
REPORT FROM: Councillor E FitzGerald
CONTACT OFFICER: Chloe Ashworth, Senior Scrutiny Officer

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Members of the Health Scrutiny Committee of the work of the newly established Carers Sub-Group over the last Municipal year.

2.0 BACKGROUND

As part of its work programme for 2022/23 the Health Scrutiny Committee requested that the Carers Sub-Group be established to discuss the topics raised and seek assurances on matters raised in Committee meetings.

The Membership of the Group comprised of Councillor E FitzGerald (Chair), Councillors Walsh and Birtchmore

The Health Scrutiny Committee noted that some Carers were not aware of the Bury offer or may not think they are a carer. Therefore, it was agreed that the sub-group be established so Councillors could work together on exploring all pathways for carers and what elected Members could do to help promote the services available. It was agreed that a formal sub committee of the Health Scrutiny Committee would be established. It was agreed that the Committee would meet at least twice a year.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

The Group has met on the following occasions:-

02/11/2022

10/01/2023

Members were supported in their work by Asher Ayres, Head of Service for Carers, n-compass, Jayne Harrison, Service Manager, The Bury Carers Hub, Caroline Malvern, Integrated Commissioning Officer, Bury Council, Sandra Bruce, Assistant Director (Early Help and School Readiness) Children and Young People and Andy Bradburn, IYSS Team Manager.

During this municipal year the Committee agreed that the focus for 2022/23 should include the following:

- **Promotion of the Adult Hub** - The group agreed that the work of the Hub and n-compass and the services and support offered should be promoted as much as possible. They also noted that not everyone accesses this information digitally.
- **Promotion of the volunteer offer** - The group agreed that the role of volunteers within the service should be promoted to help grow the volunteer offer for both early help and young carers services.

Members sought assurances on the work being undertaken to support carers including specifically the work surrounding young carers.

4.0 WORK UNDERTAKEN BY THE GROUP

- **UPDATE FROM BURY CARERS HUB**

Members noted the work of the Bury Carer's Hub and how this is a commissioned services from n-Compass by Adult Social Care. That the number of carers currently referred in Bury (683 unique and 76 re-referrals in Nov 22), that the majority of carers are women the main client groups, and were taken through the current service offer. Members considered the work that should be undertaken by them as a group and agreed to visit a coffee morning/ listening café to meet with carers and have photographs taken for a press release which will highlight and promote the services. All Members discussed the proposal of awareness training of the service and for Elected Members to recommend and promote the offer to their constituents.

- **YOUNG CARERS SERVICE**

Members discussed Bury Young Carers and the offer to young carers in the Borough. Bury Young Carers work with 7-18 year olds and their families, helping to identify and assess young carers and offer them support. A young carer is a young person under 18 and helps to look after a relative with a physical illness or disability, mental health condition, or substance misuse issue. Bury Young Carers works in partnership with the Youth Service, who provide respite activities for young carers through weekly group and activities during the holiday periods which are funded through the Charity Friends of Bury Young Carers. Questions were asked around how young carers were referred to the service. The committee noted that often these carers were being supported by social workers and through the schools. The committee also noted that focus should also be on children thriving alongside just coping.

Members were told about the 'Wigan Model' of volunteering, 'befrienders' to support families and the role of the School Governor.

5.0 ACTIONS TAKEN AS A RESULT OF THE GROUP

1. To visit a coffee morning or listening café to meet with carers and have photographs taken for a press release which will highlight and promote the services
2. To have a meeting with the Cabinet Members for Adult and Children's Services to discuss the work of the T & F Group and next steps which could include:

- a. All Councillors to undertake awareness training of the service and what it can offer. This will enable Councillors to be able to recommend and promote the offer to constituents.
 - b. All Councillors to be invited to become 'Friends of Bury Carers' which will then give them access to regular information and news.
 - c. To discuss how the offer is communicated to those who are digitally excluded.
 - d. To look at the widening of a befriending service in Bury to support families where children are carers but to consider for both cohorts.
3. All schools be asked to provide their governors with information relating to young carers within their schools.

6.0 CONCLUSION

Members of the group supported by Strategic Leads within the Department have met on two occasions, interviewed and sought assurances 2 different partners and three internal officers.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS 2023/2024

Members of the Carers Sub-Group wished to put forward the following recommendations:

1. For members of the Health Scrutiny Committee to note the progress made by the task and finish group
2. For members to agree that the suggestions are taken forward to the Cabinet Members for Adult and Children's services.

List of Background Papers:-

Bury Carers Hub Presentation



Bury Carers Hub
Presentation BCH O'

Young Carers Presentation



Young Carers
Presentation Jan 23.

Scrutiny Annual Report

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