

Issue Date: 22 July 2013

New plan will help Bassetlaw carers

A plan which sets out how Nottinghamshire County Council and the NHS will support local carers over the next year was approved by the Council's Adult Social Care and Health Committee yesterday.

The Council currently provides services for around 400 carers in Bassetlaw who look after or give support to a relative, partner or friend.

The Integrated Commissioning Carers' Strategy for 2013/14 aims to improve the quality of lives of carers in the county.

It will make sure carers have more control and choice in the services they access and are involved in decisions that affect them.

The Council currently spends £5.2m a year on carers, which includes:

- £2.3m on carers' breaks
- £1.8m on young carers
- £456,000 on short breaks for people with learning disabilities
- £268,000 on support for carers in a crisis.

An additional £1.2m has been transferred over to the Council from the NHS and the plan sets out how the authority will spend £814,000 of this money, including:

- £262,500 on support workers for carers of people with dementia
- £177,000 on personal budgets for carers
- £150,700 on care and support centres for carers
- £144,000 on support for carers looking after terminally ill people.

A new telephone advice service is also being proposed to be piloted in Gedling to speed up the assessment of carers to give them information and advice on the support that is available and decide whether a detailed assessment is required.

Councillor Muriel Weisz, the Chair of the County Council's Adult Social Care Committee, said: "Anyone who takes up the role of carer, at any age, is a real priority for me. They do the caring out of love and concern for their person they support, but often do this at high personal cost. Carers often lose their own social contacts, neglect their own health and can become very stressed.

I believe the rest of us should be as supportive as we can to those we know who take up carer responsibilities. I very much welcome the creative initiatives of the County Council and the NHS to ensure that carers have a good quality of life."

There has been an increase in the number of carers in the last decade of 7,517 across the county, so now there are 90,698 carers in Nottinghamshire.

There are now around 57,000 carers providing between 1 and 19 hours of care per week and 21,000 offering over 50 hours of care per week.

Carers needing help or information should contact the Council on 0300 500 80 80.