

NHS LANARKSHIRE

CARERS INFORMATION STRATEGY
2007-2010

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

1. On 25th October 2006 the Board approved a paper as the basis for consultation on the development of a Carers Information Strategy.
2. Following a three month period of widespread consultation, the draft Strategy has been amended to take account of comments and suggestions, and a final Carers Information Strategy is presented as an appendix to this paper for the Board's approval.

POLICY CONTEXT

3. The Scottish Executive Health Department require Health Boards to prepare carers information strategies, in accordance with Scottish Executive Health Department HDL(2006)22. This recognises the importance of the NHS in supporting the unpaid carer's role in helping to look after family or friends who are in need of help through ill health or disability.
4. The Carers Information Strategy is designed to complement the North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire Carers Strategies, which were prepared by the respective Councils and published recently, with NHS Lanarkshire as signatories.

CONSULTATION

5. A summary of comments and suggestions received during (and following) formal consultation is attached at **Appendix 1**.
6. There is broad agreement on the strategic direction, and a welcome for the increased level of investment in carers issues, although there remain points of detail relating to the implementation of the Strategy's proposals. It is proposed to address these with the development of an action plan recognising differences of approach in North and South Lanarkshire.

NEXT STEPS

7. Following endorsement of the Carers Information Strategy by NHS Lanarkshire Board as the lead agency, and subsequently by the two councils and two representative carers organisations, the action plan referred to in the preceding paragraph will be developed in partnership with carers represented through North Lanarkshire Carers Together and South Lanarkshire Carers Network and with North and South Lanarkshire Strategy Groups. This will be pursued through an initial workshop launching the Strategy to which all stakeholders will be invited, and which will reflect on examples of good practice (including some in Lanarkshire) issued by the Scottish Executive Health Department in December 2006.
8. Within NHS Lanarkshire, a lead manager for implementation of this Strategy has been identified in each of the CHPs and Acute Division, to take forward carers issues in partnership with key stakeholders.
9. Future reviews of the Strategy and its implementation will be undertaken through the North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire Carers Strategy Groups, which report to their respective Health and Care Partnerships.
10. A full Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment will be undertaken alongside development of the Action Plan

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. It is recommended that NHS Lanarkshire Board:-
 - 10.1 receives the summary of comments received during formal consultation;
 - 10.2 approves the Carers Information Strategy 2007-2010;
 - 10.3 notes the next steps, including the development of a detailed action plan to implement the strategy within the cost identified in the Board's Financial Plan.

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