

## Caring Matters – An update for Carers Leads

August 2013

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## Policy Team update:

### **Time to be Heard project**

Our Time to be Heard project is moving forward fast and has been kicked off by looking deeper at the needs of young adult carers. This campaign is being delivered in partnership with The Co-operative to improve the support available with schools, colleges, universities, employment and communities for 14-25 year olds. The Partnership intends to achieve real change by engaging with young adult carers to provide opportunities for them to use their voice. Research by Nottingham University and consultation events by the Young Carers Policy Team have been taking place to underpin our work.

With this bulletin is a briefing of our findings from our first consultation activities at Nottingham University and The Children Society's Young Carers festival in Southampton. In August the Policy Team also attended the Scottish Young Carers Festival organised by The Princess Royal Trust for Carers where they spoke to 120 young carers about barriers to further education.

### **Carers Week**

This year's Carers Week theme was 'Prepared to Care?' Carers Trust attended two events in Parliament along with carers from our Network Partners; Carers Week Speednetworking and Question Time. Ruth and Roma, carers from Carers in Hertfordshire met several MPs to discuss carers' issues at the Carers Week Speednetworking event and blogged about their experience afterwards for Carers Trust: <http://carersblog.wordpress.com/2013/06/13/carers-week-2013-two-carers-report-back-from-parliament/>

Carers Week attracted significant press and political attention and was acknowledged during Prime Minister's Question Time in a question from Dr Julian Huppert, MP for Cambridge.

### **Mental Capacity Act 2005 House of Lords Committee**

Moira Fraser, Director of Policy at Carers Trust gave evidence to a House of Lords Committee that is scrutinising the Mental Capacity Act to ensure that it is being implemented how Parliament intended it to be. A summary of Carers Trust's evidence to the committee will be shared in a future policy briefing.

Carers Trust's [Triangle of Care](#) work was highly praised in a previous evidence session by Paul Farmer, Chief Executive of Mind. He praised it for clearly defining the relationship between the clinician, the carer and the person with mental ill-health and for dealing with the question of confidentiality well. A transcript of his evidence can be found here:

<http://www.parliament.uk/documents/Mental%20Capacity%20Act%202005/Mental%20Capacity%20Act%20-%20Oral%20transcripts%20corrected%20-%20.pdf>

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### Carers Blog <http://carersblog.wordpress.com/>

The Carers Blog covers news and opinion on carers' issues and is a good way for keeping up to date with developments. Recent posts include:

**Ensuring carers services are prioritised in the new system**

**Does your GP care about carers?**

**Time to be heard for young adult carers**

**Carers remain concerned over continuity and knowledge in the new NHS**

Would you like to contribute a post to the blog on a current policy issue? Get in touch with Moira Fraser [mfraser@carers.org](mailto:mfraser@carers.org).

### Parliament and National Policy Developments:

#### **Update on the Care Bill and Children and Families Bill**

The Care Bill and The Children and Families Bill are both now in the House of Lords.

The Care Bill will be in Report stage when the House of Lords returns from recess in October. The eligibility regulations accompanying the Bill have been drafted and released, these will determine which needs are eligible and therefore who will be entitled to support. Carers Trust will be responding to the consultation about the regulations.

The Children and Families Bill will next be debated at Committee Stage in the Lords in October and is the opportunity for the Lords to debate and amend every clause in the Bill. Following the Children's Ministers commitment to look at changing legislation to help and support young carers, Carers Trust are calling on the Government to say exactly how the law will be changed to protect young carers, strengthen their rights and ensure that support is provided to the whole family. We are continuing to work with the Government and in Parliament to do this.

#### **Backbench Debate on Carers 20/06/13**

Following Carers Week, a debate on carers took place in the House of Commons. The debate, sponsored by Paul Burstow MP, Barbara Keeley MP and Tony Baldry MP, gave all MPs the opportunity to debate issues relating to carers and the important role carers play.

The debate was well attended and MPs from all parties expressed their support for carers. The main issues raised were identification, carers' breaks, the health and financial well-being of carers and the need to support young carers. You can read the full the debate online:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130620/debtext/130620-0001.htm#13062055000001>

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### **Spending Review 26/06/13**

In the Spending Review in June George Osborne announced an additional £3.8 billion for integrating health and social care. £2 billion of this will be new funding whilst £1.8 billion will come from pre-existing sources across health and social care. Despite good news for social care funding, the introduction of a welfare spending cap could cause increased financial difficulties for carers and their families who are already struggling. Please find Carers Trust's press release regarding the Spending Review here:

<http://www.carers.org/press-release/carers-trust-statement-spending-review>

### **Briefing on the recommendations of the Francis Report and its impact on carers**

Carers Trust has also produced a briefing which analyses how the recommendations from the Francis Report could impact carers. This briefing is included with this bulletin.

The Executive Summary of the Report outlines Francis' key findings and provides an annex of recommendations, please find it [here](#).

Resulting from the Francis Report, the Keogh report has recently been published. It placed 11 of the 14 hospital trusts with the highest mortality ratings in the country into special measures. For further information please find the review here:

<http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/bruce-keogh-review/Documents/outcomes/keogh-review-final-report.pdf>

### **The Cavendish review: an independent review into healthcare assistants and support workers in the NHS and social care settings 10/07/13**

This independent review by Camilla Cavendish was carried out in the wake of the Francis Inquiry. It makes a number of recommendations on how the training and support of both healthcare assistants who work in hospitals, and social care support workers who are employed in care homes and people's own homes, can be improved to ensure they provide care to the highest standard.

The review proposes that all healthcare assistants and social care support workers should undergo the same basic training, based on the best practice that already exists in the system, and must get a standard 'certificate of fundamental care' before they can care for people unsupervised.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-healthcare-assistants-and-support-workers-in-nhs-and-social-care>

### **Jon Rouse, Director General, Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships, speech on supporting carers 14/06/13**

During Carers Week, Jon Rouse, Director General, Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships at the Department of Health, gave a speech on how the Department of Health can best support carers and issued a series challenges to local authorities, CCGs, Healthwatch and health and well-being boards to improve their support for carers.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/jon-rouse-talks-about-supporting-carers>

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### **NHS celebrates its 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday 5/07/13**

On the anniversary of the NHS, Secretary of State Jeremy Hunt set out proposals to improve care for vulnerable older people and create a more personalised health service for every single patient.

He emphasised the importance of caring for society's most vulnerable individuals and focus on a Vulnerable Older People's Plan which will include a named clinician for older people. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jeremy-hunt-celebrates-65-years-of-the-nhs>

Comments are being sought from NHS, social care and public health staff, carers and patients. People can discuss and comment on the proposals through the better health and care site:

<http://betterhealthandcare.readandcomment.com/>

### **National introduction of benefit cap begins 15/07/13**

The benefit cap started to be introduced across the country 15 July 2013.

The cap will roll out from now to the end of September with the amount of benefits working-age households can claim limited to the average working wage – £500 a week

<http://dwp.gov.uk/adviser/updates/benefit-cap/>

### **Bedroom Tax challenge dismissed by High Court 30/07/13**

A group of disabled people have lost a court challenge to cuts in social housing benefit known as the Bedroom Tax.

The High Court said the policy was not unlawfully discriminatory but criticised the government for failing to follow a 2012 ruling that said housing benefit should not be cut where disabled children were involved.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-23503095>

## Local Government:

### **TLAP Interactive Map to help plan information and advice services 10/07/2013**

Think Local Act Personal have launched an interactive map that demonstrates people's typical journeys through the complicated care system and identifies the "pinch points" where councils and other organisations need to improve the information and advice on offer to people and families. It has been designed to help councils plan and design their advice and information services.

The map was launched alongside the *Social care jargon buster* of social care's 52 most commonly used - yet little understood - words and phrases; and a *set of principles* for how councils can provide high quality information and advice.

<http://www.thinklocalactpersonal.org.uk/News/PersonalisationNewsItem/?cid=9556>

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### **Community Care Statistics, Social Services Activity, England**

This report examines the process of assessing eligibility to state funded social care and the provision of services where people are eligible by the Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (CASSRs). This is the provisional release of the report, with the final report due early 2014, and looks at the period April 2012 to March 2013.

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/searchcatalogue?productid=11936&topics=1%2fSocial+care%2fSocial+care+activity&sort=Relevance&size=10&page=1#top>

## Good Practice: Commissioning and Service Development:

### **Carers Trust Resource - Commissioning for Carers: Key Principles for Clinical Commissioning Groups**

In April 2013 the new NHS commissioning structure introduced under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 came into place. PCTs and Strategic Health Authorities (SHA) were replaced by Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and NHS England.

*Commissioning for Carers: Key Principles for Clinical Commissioning Groups* makes the case that supporting carers' wellbeing is in everyone's interests and can benefit the people being cared for, reduce overall spending in the NHS and help commissioners to meet their required outcomes.

<http://static.carers.org/files/commissioning-for-carers-key-principles-for-ccgs-6809.pdf>

### **Carers' Hub Toolkit for Commissioners**

The Carers' Hub is a resource for all those looking to identify needs, and commission and develop services for carers. It showcases a variety of original and innovative practice examples to inspire ideas about creative and inventive ways to deliver services.

<http://www.carershub.org/content/toolkit-commissioners>

The Carers' Hub can be used in consultation with carers and local carers services as a tool to map local carer need and service provision. A toolkit outlining this process is available on [www.carershub.org](http://www.carershub.org).

### **Integrated Health and Social Care**

The Kings Fund have released a report examining health and social care integration in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. It considers both policy initiatives to aid integration and possible barriers concluding with what lessons could be learnt for England.

<http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/integrated-care-northern-ireland-scotland-and-wales>

### **NHS England announces vision for future of commissioning support services**

NHS England has announced its plans for supporting the development of high quality, cost effective support services for NHS commissioners. *'Towards commissioning excellence: a strategy for commissioning support services'* sets out the building blocks

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for developing a vibrant market that enables Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and other commissioners to choose from the best providers and the public, voluntary and independent sector.

To read the strategy, go to: <http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/towa-commis-exc.pdf>

### **SCIE launches new resource – Working alongside and supporting carers of people with Dementia 13/06/13**

SCIE has launched a new additional resource for its Dementia Gateway to explore how health and social care staff can work alongside carers, recognise their expertise and help to provide the best possible support for people living with dementia.

<http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/dementia/carers/index.asp>

## Other News:

### **CQC new Chief Inspector of Adult Social Care 19/07/13**

The Care Quality Commission has appointed Andrea Sutcliffe as its first Chief Inspector of Adult Social Care. This role will be responsible for leading the CQC's inspection and regulation of adult social care.

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/media/cqc-announces-chief-inspector-adult-social-care>

### **Dementia film from SCIE**

The Social Care Institute of Excellence has produced a film on dementia as part of its Social Care TV series. The film follows 6 people diagnosed with dementia and aims to increase understanding of the condition and of the impact felt by people with Dementia. It is available through the following link:

[http://www.scie.org.uk/socialcaretv/video-player.asp?v=gettingtoknowthepersonwithdementia&dm\\_i=4O5,1M5PA,A0L5PQ,5LULP,1](http://www.scie.org.uk/socialcaretv/video-player.asp?v=gettingtoknowthepersonwithdementia&dm_i=4O5,1M5PA,A0L5PQ,5LULP,1)

### **CQC Survey finds people reluctant to speak out about poor care 15/07/13**

A survey by the Care Quality Commission has found the reluctance of people to speak out about poor care. It surveyed over 1000 people and found that one in nine were reluctant to speak out about poor care. For more details please see:

<http://www.networks.nhs.uk/news/one-in-nine-reluctant-to-speak-out-about-poor-care>

### **Carers UK research on the impact of the bedroom tax on carers**

Carers UK research finds that the Government is failing to protect carers and disabled people from 'spare room' cuts.

The research, published 100 days after the introduction of the 'bedroom tax', shows the impact of the policy on families caring for friends and family members.

<http://www.carersuk.org/newsroom/item/3216-carers-deliver-%E2%80%99bedroom-tax%E2%80%99-letters-to-no-10>

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### **NHS Friends and Family Survey**

The first results from a survey asking patients a single question of whether they would recommend the NHS services of the hospital to their family and friends has been released. The survey results allow hospitals to gain real time feedback and increases transparency of services.

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/2013/07/30/nhsfft/>

### **NHS England Call to Action 11/07/13**

NHS England has called on the public, NHS staff and politicians to have an open and honest debate about the future shape of the NHS.

A new publication, 'The NHS belongs to the people: a call to action' sets out these challenges facing the NHS, including more people living longer with more complex conditions, increasing costs whilst funding remains flat and rising expectation of the quality of care.

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/2013/07/11/call-to-action/>

### **Launch of pioneering dementia care pilot projects 25/07/13**

The Department of Health have awarded over a hundred hospitals and care homes across England a share of a £50million fund to create pioneering care environments designed with the needs of people with dementia in mind.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/launch-of-pioneering-dementia-care-pilot-projects>

### **Caring for my stroke victim husband Andrew Marr changed my life 1/08/13**

Powerful comment piece from journalist Jackie Ashley in The Guardian, talking about how the experience of acting as a full-time carer to her husband Andrew Marr, changed her perspective and made her appreciate how important the role of carers is.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/aug/01/caring-stroke-victim-andrew-marr-transformed>

### **Stay-at-home carers to get childcare vouchers 5/08/13**

Ministers to offer concessions to carers and those on maternity or paternity leave as part of scheme to assist with childcare

<http://www.theguardian.com/money/2013/aug/05/childcare-vouchers-stay-at-home-parents>

### **Office for Disability Issues- Fulfilling Potential: Making it Happen - Better Working with Disabled People**

This consultation will build on the successful engagement of disabled people following the Fulfilling Potential Report released on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013. This consultation will look at new means to strengthen the voice of disabled people in Government. The deadline for evidence submissions is **16<sup>th</sup> October 2013**.

<http://odi.dwp.gov.uk/>

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### Events:

#### **Duty to Care? Conference from the National Council for Palliative Care**

This conference on 10 October 2013 looks at involving and supporting carers of people at the end of their lives. The conference aims to highlight issues faced by carers, what should be done to engage with carers and to recognise and support their caring role.

This event is aimed at carers, frontline workers, commissioners and service providers.

<http://www.ncpc.org.uk/event/duty-care>