

Caring for the Future – One Year On

In November 2015 our Carers Strategy was launched. It set out a shared vision for the future of caring in Doncaster:

'Carers of all ages in Doncaster are recognised for the vital contribution they make, have a strong voice that influences improvement, are respected as partners in care and are able to tap into the support they need, when they need it in a way that they choose. Young and young adult carers will not be expected to provide care but if they choose to do so they will be supported to prevent negative impact on their life chances.'

'Caring for the Future – A commitment to working better together for carers and the borough'

A number of local organisations and groups worked together :

- Doncaster Carers Forum
- Doncaster Partnership for Carers
- Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Doncaster Clinical Commissioning Group
- Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
- Health watch Doncaster
- Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS foundation Trust.

This report gives a brief update on what has happened over the past year.

If you would like more information or to be part of delivering real change for carers in Doncaster please contact:

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Introduction

Developing the Strategy brought together a range of groups and organisations focused on improving the lives of carers in Doncaster. We always recognised that this was a long term commitment and we have continued to work together over the past year. It is well known that the number of people with health and care needs is increasing and the financial resources to meet those needs are reducing. The already crucial role played by family carers is going to become even more important. We recognise that supporting sustainable caring in our communities is vital to the transformation of health and care in Doncaster.

The past year has brought challenges and opportunities for all of the groups and organisations involved. We have made some progress and improvements for carers but we know that there is still a lot that we can do. We are proud of the work we have done and this is only going to inspire us to do even better in the coming months and years. We are still committed to working together to make things better for carers and the local community.

We committed to... recognising carers for the vital contribution that they make, giving them a strong voice to influence improvement and ensuring that they are respected partners in care.

So far we have ...

- Set up a Strategic Group co chaired with local carers to make sure that the strategy is implemented
- Have a carer chairing the Doncaster Dementia Forum
- Implemented 'Johns Campaign' in key parts of Doncaster Hospital (this encourages open visiting for carers of people with dementia)
- Supported local community groups to raise awareness during Carers Week
- Organised a Frailty Week to raise awareness of the role of carers
- Set up a co-production group with local carers to lead on training and professional development for staff

We committed to ...developing flexible, person centred carer support services

So far we have...

- Increased the number of carers using the Emergency Card Scheme
- Continued to offer direct payments to carers
- Started to work on Personal Health Budgets
- Launched a Person Centred Care study day for hospital staff

We committed to ...supporting young carers to prevent negative impact upon their life chances

So far we have ...

- Reviewed the commissioned Young Carers Service and we are piloting a revised approach

Some of our planned actions for the next year...

- The hospital wants to involve more carers in Quality Improvement Projects
- The Clinical Commissioning Group will be evaluating their health Ambassador pilot and are considering extending it to include a Carers Ambassador
- DMBC will develop practice guidance and training in partnership with local carers

The Strategic Group will make sure that detailed action plans are developed and updated. We will continue to recruit and support carers to get involved with our work.

Finally

We recognise that delivering better lives for carers cannot be achieved by this Strategy alone. We will take every opportunity to champion the needs and rights of carers so that they are embedded as services transform and develop across Doncaster.

Caring will touch most people's lives at some point. Carers are a resource for our communities and communities are a great resource for carers. As care and health support moves closer to those communities we will work to ensure that caring is seen as a valued and respected activity. No carer should feel alone or unsupported. We all share a responsibility to build and maintain carer friendly communities.



NHS
Doncaster
Clinical Commissioning Group



Doncaster and
Bassetlaw Hospitals **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust

Rotherham Doncaster and **NHS**
South Humber
NHS Foundation Trust