

COMMISSIONING FOR CARERS PRINCIPLES

Principle 5 - Support for carers depends on partnership working

Carers' needs span health and social care so, perhaps unsurprisingly, partnership working was identified as key to providing joined up seamless services and continuity of care. This can be supported through the NHS working with local authorities, voluntary organisations and local communities to support carers. The use of Joint Strategic Needs Assessments for partnership agreements can support this.

(Select one colour only. Rate where red lowest-----and green highest)

How assured are you about your partnership arrangements i.e. when a person is discharged from hospital to community services, how is their carer linked into support services?



What could improve your rating? -----

How do you rate your partnership arrangements with regard to carers' services?



What could improve your rating? -----

How assured are you that you involve carers as partners in your commissioning decision process?



What could improve your rating? -----

A core component of whole systems integrated care is the concept of outcomes commissioning. In the planning guidance the £3.8bn Better Care Fund includes £130m of NHS funding for carers' breaks. Local plans should set out the level of resource that will be dedicated to carer-specific support, including carers' breaks, and identify how the chosen methods for supporting carers will help to meet key outcomes.

Ask yourself...

- Have you mapped your existing services to identify the cross over and overlap to identify who can deliver and support carers most effectively?
- Have you considered commissioning in partnership with the voluntary and community sector?
- Have you considered jointly commissioning carers services with others for example other CCG's or local authorities/ social services?
- Have you considered the impact of the Care Act on your commissioned services?
- Does your business case template demonstrate/encourage partnership working and capture the diversity of carers?
- Have you considered joint commissioning and joint funding of services with carers centres? If so, have you ensured that a partnership agreement can be tracked to ensure it is being met by frontline services?
- As a system leader do you participate in the annual Carers Week in partnership with others?

Good Practice examples:

- Torbay-A joint health and social care approach on identification and support to carers of people with dementia, and the effectiveness of early intervention in primary care - Evaluated using GHQ 12 self-assessments by Manchester University's Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU). http://www.nhs.uk/media/2535952/carers_case_study_torbay_dementia_final.pdf
- Halton Borough Council and Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are working together to provide a co-ordinated approach - 17 practices kite marked as "Community Wellbeing Practices" Evaluation using the Using the WHO 5 index. http://www.nhs.uk/media/2563117/carers_case_study_-_halton_health_wellbeing.pdf
- Torbay and South Devon-Helping carers of substance misusers- evaluation 12-item General Health Questionnaire and one-to-one questionnaires. http://www.nhs.uk/media/2563090/carers_torbay_substance_misuse.pdf

References: