



Doncaster
Council

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Councillor Andrea Robinson
Edenthorpe and Kirk Sandall Ward

Date: 7th January 2019
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Councillor Rachael Blake
Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care
Doncaster Council
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Dear Rachael,

A presentation was provided to the Health and Adults Social Care Panel around the All Age Carers' Charter at its meeting on the 29th November 2018. Members commented that the information given had been very concise and informative and it was recognised that a great deal of positive work was being undertaken.

Members were pleased to hear that the All Age Carers' Charter had been launched on the 16th October 2018 and would enable Team Doncaster to publicly show and reaffirm their commitment to carers.

Members were interested to hear that in Doncaster there were 33,000 carers (across all ages) as reported in Doncaster's Carers Strategy (census 2011) although approximately 4,000 of that figure were known to services. It was explained that this was due to individuals not always wishing to identify themselves as a carer despite having undertaken that role in some capacity.

During the meeting, a Member questioned how carers known to services were monitored, maintained or identified as no longer requiring support as a carer. Members were informed that carers needed to be empowered to have a voice and be able to report what they felt was not working or what support they needed.

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Members were pleased to hear that engagement of the proposal had taken place with the voluntary and community sector and was currently being shared out in the public domain as well as through partners. Members heard that the charter was being taken through Doncaster Chamber to ensure that further engagement takes place with businesses as 1 in 9 workers were identified as carers. It was also stated that carers needed to be further identified through the workforce so that they could access the available support. In terms of Veterans, it was stated that they were often the carers or being cared for and it was questioned how they could holistically be supported within the community.

Further to Doncaster Council signing up to the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Charter, a Member stated that they would like to see other areas of diseases (that involved carers) be contacted to ensure that a wider reach was undertaken.

Following its consideration the Panel agreed the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1:

That the Young Carers Card once successfully rolled out, be considered for use in the workplace for employees who are carers.

It was explained that this was a new initiative to be introduced and made available to every school. Members recognised that the card needed to be rolled out with young carers first before being considered for use in the workplace. Members heard how the Young Carers Card might incorporate a traffic light system to reflect where the young person was emotionally on that particular day through a visual means without having to articulate it further.

Recommendation 2:

That Headteachers be encouraged to sign up to the Doncaster Carers Charter.

In terms of young people, a Member referred to the 700 young carers that had been identified. Enquiries were made about what pastoral care was available in schools and academies and assurances were sought that young carers had access to those services. Members were pleased to hear that the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools, as part of her role, had endeavoured to visit all school and raise awareness of the charter. It was reported that the Cabinet Member had spoken passionately about support from Officers, and issued a mandate to challenge secondary schools. It was therefore felt that Headteachers signing up to the charter would further endorse this.

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Recommendation 3:

To ensure that those young carers with parents who did not speak English (and therefore needed to act as translators) sits within the spectrum of the All Age Charter

A Member raised concern that young carers with parents who did not speak English often became their translators when communicating with services. Members were advised that those children were generally known to the authority or would be where they had identified themselves as a young carer.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who attended and responded to questions posed by the Panel. I would be grateful for a response by no later than the 7th February 2019.

Kind Regards



pp Councillor Andrea Robinson
Chair of Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel

cc: Jo Miller, Chief Executive
Cabinet Members
H&ASC O&S
Damian Allen, Director of People
Debbie John-Lewis, Assistant Director Communities
Angela Waite, Carer's Strategic Lead