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Councillor L Stagg
Chair, Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel
Portsmouth City Council
Guildhall Square
PORTSMOUTH PO1 2AZ

Dear Councillor Stagg

Funding for Carers

Cllr David Horne, your predecessor as Chair of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel, recently wrote to me in respect of the above. I am responding to you as the new Chair of the Panel.

On behalf of the Panel, Cllr Horne requested that I send him a breakdown of how NHS Portsmouth spent the funding allocated for carers' breaks in 2009/10, and how it plans to spend this money in 2010/11. I am now able to respond to this request.

Services offered as respite during 2009/10 were as follows: day sitting in the carer's own home, day centres across Portsmouth, residential care, NHS continuing care where appropriate, and those for carer support to include self assessment and training and the Carers' Centre. The City Council's Health Improvement Development Service committed £857,000 during the year to support for carers.

New services being introduced for 2010/11 are for respite care and have been worked through as part of the new Joint Carers' Strategy. This strategy, which is currently out for consultation, has been developed with carers. An emerging priority is for support for

“hidden carers” and have personalised respite, and individual budgets. This is what the extra £100,000 extra this coming year will aim to provide. It equates to an additional 500 weeks of respite care.

I hope this provides the Panel with the information it requires.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Walker', is placed on a light blue rectangular background.

Director of Corporate & Support Services

