



Portsmouth

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20th July 2010

Councillor Lynne Stagg
Portsmouth City Council
Civic Offices
Guildhall Square
PORTSMOUTH
PO1 2AL

Dear Councillor Stagg

Funding for Carers

Following our recent meeting and further to Rob Dalton's letter of May 24th, I promised to clarify funding arrangements for carers and the use of the £100,000 assigned this year to this PCT for carers' support.

Whilst, as you say, the £100,000 fund is not ring-fenced and does not need to be accounted for separately, this is in keeping with other sums invested generally in services for carers. I believe that the PCT commissions carers' respite and support services to a value considerably greater than £100,000. Depending on what is included, the amount is closer to £1.5 million annually.

As Rob Dalton outlined in his letter to you, this amount covers the cost of a number of projects including: day sitting in the carer's own home, day centres across Portsmouth, residential care, NHS continuing care where appropriate, carer support for 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.

To further clarify Rob Dalton's letter, we are consulting at the moment on the Joint Carers' Strategy and the priorities that emerge will need to be taken on board. However, currently, we believe that the extra £100,000 available to us this year should be targeted on personalised respite support for "hidden carers" and on developing individual budgets. The extra money equates to an additional 500 weeks of respite care.

I hope this explains how the money will be invested and reassures you that the lack of ring-fencing will not lead to the funds being lost or under-prioritised against the needs of other clients and patients. However, as ever, please do let me know if you need anything further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracy Sanders', with a horizontal line drawn above the first few letters.

Tracy Sanders
Chief Executive
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