

Notes from a meeting at NHS Portsmouth 11 February 2011.

Present

Councillor Lynne Stagg, Chair Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel.

Jo Gooch, Finance Director

Jane Di Dino

Funding for carers.

An overview of Carers' Funding and a breakdown of carers' respite funding were handed out.

They are trying to identify carers that need support especially hidden carers who might not consider themselves as carers. GPs are being asked to identify carers in order to identify them as early as possible.

Those carers who are known have said that the quality of care given to their relative is the most important issue and only when that is assured, will they consider taking a break. Carers have also indicated that they prefer regular small breaks rather than a holiday.

A self assessment for carers has recently been introduced to make it simpler for carers to access support. This will be available in many community venues and online.

The aim is to provide a more personalised service for carers. The introduction of personal health budgets might be one way of achieving this. In Portsmouth a pilot scheme is being developed and appropriate service users have been identified.

There is a lot of money spent on carers' support which is not labelled as such as it is part of many things.

The strategy will be launched in June during Carers UK Week by the local authority and NHS Portsmouth.

If more people are identified than were budgeted for, then more funding will be provided. A reserve fund has been put aside for this purpose: £100,000 per year for three years, which will be matched by the local authority from its adult social care budget.

The Carers Centre in Orchard Road will be tendered out to the voluntary sector. At the moment it is part of Health, Improvement & Development Service.

There is a need to raise the profile of carers groups. Some are not as accessible to newcomers as they could be. Service users have indicated that they would prefer to be segregated into different groups of carers according to the issues involved but that would not be very cost-effective.

The average cost of a week in a nursing home is £800. Solent Health Care has two respite beds at The Limes, St James Hospital.

The carers funding comes from the capital budget.