

WESTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST

**Notes of the Carers Steering Group meeting held
On 10th October 2018 commencing at 11.00 am in
Conference Room, Main Building, Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital**

Present:	<p>Ms Deirdre Walker, Asst Director Social Care (Chair) Mrs Cathy Magowan, Carer Support Co-ordinator Mrs Geraldine McLaughlin, Carers Development Worker (NS) Mr Michael Downes, Carer Representative Ms Catherine Carlin, Head of Service Physical Disability Mrs Glenda Frazer, Carer Representative Mr Roger Johnston, Social Worker, Adult Mental Health Service Mrs Mary Millar, Carer Representative</p>
Apologies:	<p>Mrs Ann McDuff, Asst Director Women's and Children's Mrs Kathryn Doherty, Carer Representative Mrs Mary Moore, Carer Representative Mrs Paula Devine, Locality Services Manager, Waterside and Limavady Mrs Kay Devine, Commissioning Support Manager, HSCB Mrs Rosaleen Harkin, Asst Director Learning Disability Ms Dymphna McNamee, Carer Representative Mrs Bonita McQuaid, HR Manager, Directorate Support Team Mr Alex Reilly, Carer Representative</p>
In Attendance:	
	Action
1. WELCOME / APOLOGIES	
Ms Walker welcomed everyone to the meeting, introductions were made and apologies noted.	
2. JOHN'S CAMPAIGN – UPDATE FROM MAJELLA MAGEE	
The Western Trust joined the national John's Campaign in 2016 which supports the rights of Carers to stay with patients with dementia in hospital to provide care, support and reassurance to their loved ones. It was agreed to invite Majella Magee to the next meeting to give a more comprehensive update.	L Preston

3.	<p>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</p> <p>Minutes were signed off as an accurate reflection of the meeting.</p>	
4.	<p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>Older Peoples Carers Forum – Primary Care and Older People had their first Carers Forum last month. Issues regarding accessing dental treatment when the person they care for becomes frail or suffers from dementia were highlighted by carers at this meeting. Discussion took place re developing a pathway for carers for this service and also to developing a directory of services for carers around daily living needs.</p> <p>Carers Cash Grants – Issues in the signing off of Cash Grants in the Mental Health Directorate which is causing substantial delays in processing and issuing of cash grants to carers within this directorate still needs to be addressed and systems putting place to streamline the process.</p> <p>Carer’s Emergency Cards – The Carers Support Team issued 4,800 Carer’s Emergency Cards to informal unpaid carers who currently receive the Carers Newsletter. The Emergency Card has been developed by Carers Northern Ireland.</p>	
5.	<p>H & C NUMBERS FOR CARERS</p> <p>A query has arisen around the Carers H & C number being required for the Carers Assessment NISAT tool and whether it was appropriate to search for this number through Trust information systems. After discussion it was agreed that if the carer cannot provide this number there is no requirement to include this number on the Carers Assessment.</p>	
6.	<p>CARERS ASSESSMENT TRAINING</p> <p>Four Carers Assessment training sessions have been organised by the Social Services Learning and Development team in each of the localities in October and November 2018. These half day training sessions will enable staff to meet their legislative, organisational and professional obligations to carers. The training is open to professional staff in all programmes of care who are in a key-worker role and will be directly responsible for offering and carrying out Carers Assessments. It was advised that staff should refresh their Carers Assessment training every three years.</p> <p>In additional it was advised that the Social Care Awards would be a good opportunity to promote the work undertaken by the Carers Support Team. These Awards are designed to celebrate the work and achievements of social care workers employed within the Western Health and Social Care Trust.</p>	

7.	<p>NISAT CARERS ASSESSMENT V4</p> <p>Discussion took place around the use of the NISAT v4 Carers Support Planning tool and it was agreed that Ms Walker would seek further clarity in advance of the preparation of training documentation for the Carers Assessment Training.</p>	D Walker
8.	<p>PHARMACY PROJECT UPDATE</p> <p>The roll out of the Community Pharmacy Project to identify hidden carers is now live. Training was delivered to community pharmacists in September. Identifying how to manage referrals already known to Carers Support was highlighted and it was agreed that each pharmacy would ask if carers had access to the newsletter as this will indicate they are already known.</p>	
9.	<p>CARERS COMMUNICATION STRATEGY REVIEW</p> <p>The Carers Steering Group Communication strategy was circulated for review. Discussion took place on ways this strategy could be communicated further, ie, through promotion in supermarkets, day centres and in- house through Health Promotion.</p>	
10.	<p>CARERS HANDBOOK UPDATE</p> <p>The draft updated carers handbook will be emailed to members for feedback.</p>	C Magowan
11.	<p>CARERS SATISFACTION SURVEY</p> <p>In order to shape the support and services offered by the Carers Support Team it was acknowledged that feedback from the Carers Satisfaction survey was important and carers should be actively encouraged to contribute to this survey.</p>	
12.	<p>A.O.B.</p> <p>Carers Support Action Plan – There was some discussion around the draft plan which was circulated to the steering group. Members agreed that the priorities chosen are Identification and Recognition of Carers, Information, Short Breaks and Employment. Members are keen that the WHSCT priorities are aligned with regional priorities.</p> <p>CAUSE are recruiting for a Mental Health Carers Advocate post in the Southern Sector.</p>	

9.	DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING 9 th January 2019 at 11.00 am in Conference Room, Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital.	
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