

Report for	Health Partnerships Committee
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Subject	Respite Care arrangements in Brent for people who are carers
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## **1 Purpose of the Report**

This report updates the Health Partnerships Committee on respite support for people who are carers in Brent.

## **2 Background**

Carers provide care and support to a variety of people including older people, adults and children who have disabilities, adults with learning disabilities, mental health and substance misuse issues. Whilst caring can be rewarding, it can be exhausting both emotionally and physically. Many carers can face multiple disadvantages of social isolation, ill health and long-term poverty. As a result carers may require help to sustain their caring role and to combine caring with other commitments and responsibilities, such as work, education, training and family life.

A new Brent Carers' Strategy for 2010-14 was agreed in 2010 by the NHS Brent Board and Brent Council Executive. The strategy summarised the needs of the 23,000 carers in Brent.

As part of consultation for the Brent Carers' Strategy, carers said they wanted a system that is on their side, one that responds in a timely and responsive way when it is most needed and treats them with respect; and where professionals understand their specific needs, as well as values their knowledge and expertise about the person they care for. One of the key things carers specifically asked for in the strategy was access to short breaks and respite.

## **3 NHS Brent and Brent Council respite care activity**

Whilst this report has been produced by NHS Brent, activity outlined as below aims to capture health and social care Investment:

### **3a NHS Brent and Brent Council Pooled fund support.**

NHS Brent and London Borough of Brent (LBB) have extended their existing partnership arrangements to include the development of a pooled budget for carers. NHS Brent aims to provide £200k per year for a period of three years into this fund, which totals £796k. Contracts are managed by LBB and used to deliver shared outcomes for health and social care.

Funding is provided to the following organisations for respite support:

Recipient	Total Allocation 2010/11
Brent Crossroads	149,943
Friends of African/Caribbean Carers and Sufferers of Dementia	78,168
Asian People's Disability Alliance	90,343
National Autistic Society	61,095
<b>Brent Carers' Centre:</b>	
Carers Flexible Break Scheme	21,240
BCC - Outings & Support (leisure breaks)	31,231
BCC - Young Carers Wk. Summer Holiday	9,384
Elders Voice	39,196
Carers Self Directed Support	36,600
St Luke's Hospice	38,000

Services are accessible to all, with the exception of the National Autistic Society allocation, which is only for carers of adults and children with Autism and the St Luke's Hospice, which is for carers of the terminally ill.

Waiting lists exist for some respite care services e.g. the NAS activity allows a break only once every 3 months.

On the positive side, Brent Carer' Centre has provided significant outreach support – its flexible break scheme supports 105 beneficiaries, its leisure breaks 255 beneficiaries and the young carers' week summer holiday consists of 178 break episodes.

### **3b Respite for continuing care patients**

NHS Brent provides respite care for all families identified as requiring respite. These are usually for patients who receive continuing care or whose respite needs are medically based. 617 days worth of respite care support were provided in the year to Sept 2010 and 8861 days of day care support for the year to April 2010. Additionally as part of the pooled fund, there is a new contract with the local hospice, to provide support for carer care and respite care is also provided to parents of children with disabilities receiving continuing healthcare. NHS Brent also provides £58k to support Brent Carers Centre core activities.

### **3c Respite for Mental health patients**

CNWL estimates it spends £2.3m on older adult's mental health day care in Brent – at the Belvedere Road Service. Brent Council also provides breaks to carers caring for people with dementia at Westbrook Day Centre.

As well as supporting carers respite breaks within the voluntary sector, Brent Council is developing a more personalised approach to providing services and support to

carers and the people they care for. Eligible carers and services users can also be given a budget to enable them to organise the type of respite break that best suits them through direct payments. Alternatively eligible carers and service users can get the council to organise the respite break for them at home or within a residential or nursing care home setting. Carers and the person they care for will need to have an assessment of their needs to be eligible for social care support.

Brent Council continues to provide emergency respite support to carers in an emergency - this is done by contacting the one stop service.

### **3d Respite for People with a Learning disability**

The vast majority of the spend and services for learning Disability respite is on independent sector placements ( residential respite care) arranged through the Community Team for People with learning Disabilities and paid for through the Council's main learning disability budget. The Council's Shared Lives project (Adult Placement Scheme) also provides respite.

## **4 Governance**

The Brent Carers' Partnership Group is the main delivery mechanism. It meets six times a year and is co-chaired by Brent Carers Centre and Brent Council. The forum is one in which the carer's strategy can be reviewed and monitored, services to carers improved, information about carers issues shared and new initiatives formed.

The Carers Partnership Group has made a difference over the last year by raising the profile of carers in the borough through Carers Week, providing a steer on strategic priorities, and facilitating training for carers through "caring with confidence".

A Carers Commissioning Forum has also been established to advice on priorities for funding of the pooled fund. This links to the Carers Partnership Group,

## **5 Future plans**

Respite care is a key part of the future strategic direction of the NHS Brent and Brent Council pooled fund. NHS Brent also wishes to provide further local support for people with dementia and their carers and will be outlining their plans in 2011.

One of the challenges that the Partnership Group faces is in developing a relationship with GP practices in Brent. A post is planned to be recruited by Brent Carers Centre to work with practices to ensure, for example, that a carers' register is being kept.

In November 2010 the government announced £400 million to be spent on respite for carers through the NHS over the next four years. This amount will be for those who care for vulnerable family members and friends so they can get a break for themselves. According to the plan, the state will also arrange a paid carer for the duration of the break. The money in the announcement was not ring fenced. In 2009-10 and 2010-11, £150 million was pledged for carers' breaks. Further details of this funding are yet to be received by NHS Brent.