

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ADULT CARE SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 22 MARCH 2001 AT 10.30 AM**

**CARERS' TOPIC GROUP –
ADDENDUM TO SERVICE PLANS AND SPECIFIC GRANTS REPORT**

Report of the Carers' Topic Group

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1. Background

- 1.1 At its meeting on 11 January, the Adult Care Services Select Committee set up a Carer's Topic Group to consider how the Carers' Breaks Grant for 20001/02 should be used. The Topic Group met on 7th March and this paper reports on the outcome of the meeting.
- 1.2 The Topic Group membership includes a number of carers who had made presentations to the Adult Care Services Select Committee. They attended the meeting as full participants.

2. Summary of Key Issues Raised

- 2.1 Drawing on feedback from the Carers' Breaks Conference, on the presentations made by carers at Select Committee and on discussions at the meeting, the overwhelming message from carers in respect of breaks was the need for flexibility and for all staff to be trained to exercise that flexibility. In relation to decisions about the use of next year's grant, the key points which people wanted to be taken into account were as follows:

- i) flexible breaks should be offered
- ii) for people with learning disabilities there should be more respite care linked to a future move to supported living or residential care ie paving the way

- iii) cash grants should be considered to enable carers to purchase holiday breaks for themselves and their families eg contribution to cost or carer to take break with family
- iv) staff should be trained to think flexibly and offer solutions without families having to complain or fight
- v) clear guidance and training is needed
- vi) it is important to be able to take a break at short notice
- vii) we should improve the provision of information about breaks, including information about opportunities for people to organise breaks for themselves
- viii) there is a need to move away from booking 6 months in advance for respite care with little scope for change

3. **Proposals for use of Grant 2001/02**

In the light of the key issues raised above, the Topic Group considered proposals for the use of new grant in 2001/02, and agreed that the proposals, as attached, should be put forward to the Adult Care Services and Children, Schools & Families Select Committees as the recommended submission to the Department of Health for the use of Grant in the coming year.

4. **Conclusion**

The Cabinet will need to approve the proposals for the use of this Grant and the Adult Care Services Select Committee and Children, Schools and Families Select Committee may wish to propose amendments to the Cabinet.

	SCHEME	PROPOSED SPEND 2000/01 £	PROJECTED SPEND 2000/01 £	PROPOSED SPEND 2001/02 £
	CHILDREN'S SERVICES			
1.	Care at Home	40,000	40,000	30,000
2.	Playschemes	39,000	29,000	39,000
3.	Residential Respite			
	Jubilee House	67,000	67,000	67,000
	Stairways	22,000 104,750	22,000 104,750	44,000 152,000
	Adrian Road	15,750	15,750	45,000
4	Young Carers	40,000	25,000	35,000
	TOTAL	223,750	198,750	260,000
	BUDGET	184,000	184,000	
	MENTAL HEALTH			
5.	Flexible Day Services	90,000	90,000	92,000
6.	Respite	75,000	25,000	75,000
7.	Care in the Home			100,000
	TOTAL	165,000	115,000	267,000

	SCHEME	PROPOSED SPEND 2000/01 £	PROJECTED SPEND 2000/01 £	PROPOSED SPEND 2001/02 £
	LEARNING DISABILITIES			
8.	Befriending Schemes	50,000	50,000	76,500
9.	Care in the Home	13,000	13,000	13,000
10.	Summer Activities	15,000	15,826	32,000
11.	Specialist Beds for Learning/Physically Disabled	60,000	49,000	61,500
12.	Flexible Respite			33,500
	TOTAL	138,000	127,826	216,500
	OLDER PEOPLE AND YOUNGER DISABLED PEOPLE			
13.	Care at Home	70,000	61,000	100,000
14.	Day Care (ethnic minority)	60,000	46,000	80,000
15.	Other Day Care			500
16.	Flexible Respite	20,000	5,000	63,000
	TOTAL	150,000	112,000	243,500
	ALL CLIENT GROUPS			
17.	Crossroads	192,000		228,000
18.	New Flexibilities			20,000
	TOTAL	192,000		248,000

	SCHEME	PROPOSED SPEND 2000/01 £	PROJECTED SPEND 2000/01 £	PROPOSED SPEND 2001/02 £
	CONSULTATION, PLANNING, ADMINISTRATION			
	CWD Project Officer (30%)			13,000
	Adult Services - Project Officer	36,000		37,000
	Admin Support			9,000
	Conferences/Consultation			6,000
	TOTAL	36,000		65,000

OVERALL SPEND

	PROPOSALS £	ALLOCATIONS £
Children's Services	276,000	260,000
Mental Health	267,000	
Learning Disabled	216,500	
Older people and younger people with physical disabilities	243,500	975,000
All client groups	248,000	
Planning/Admin.	65,000	65,000
TOTAL	1,300,000	1,300,000

Children's Services

Scheme 1

The county strategy for children with disabilities includes the provision of breaks at home for parents. Additional contracts with home care agencies such as Crossroads have been agreed to provide specialist services for these children. It is estimated that the money will purchase 3,330 hours of care over the year (66 hours a week). On average of 6 hours per week per family this will benefit an average of 11 families every week throughout the year.

Scheme2

The county strategy for children with disabilities includes the provision of additional play schemes, weekend clubs and after school provision for children with special needs. The funding will provide approximately 615 additional days/places. Over the course of the year it is expected that around 40 children will benefit every week throughout the year.

Scheme 3

Demand for residential respite services has risen sharply, both for requests for increased packages as well as new referrals. Occupancy rates at Jubilee House and Stairways have increased accordingly, particularly for children with high care needs. Funding has been required to increase general staffing levels in the day and at night. NCH at Adrian Road are expanding their service by opening additional weekends - they currently close on alternate weekends, as well as increasing the number of children with higher care needs.

Scheme 4

Carers in Hertfordshire, Stevenage Young Carers and local District teams will continue to organise outings, weekends away, and holiday breaks for young carers so that they can have some time to themselves away from caring. It has been difficult to fully utilise the funding available to date and so this year there is a proposed reduction in the budget for these activities.

Mental Health

Scheme 5

Guidepost Trust, in South West Hertfordshire and the Community Support Team in Hertford will continue to provide flexible and extended day care during 2001/2002. See below for proposals to extend the service to other parts of County.

Scheme 6

£75k is being spent on holiday provision at Forresters Hotel and other resources. This provides respite carer for carers by providing respite to clients either with their carers or on their own. This will continue in 2001/2001.

Scheme 7

Carers want more flexible services in their homes and without the need for it to be regular and planned in advance. A sum of money will be used to develop services through the voluntary sector with one or more of a number of possible providers. Carers should be able to 'book' a service so that as carers they can short break at the weekend or in an evening so they can go to family functions or the theatre knowing the cared for person is secure and cared for.

Learning Disabilities

Scheme 8

In year 3 befriending schemes will be extended so that they will be available in four additional areas of County, thus completing the cover for the County. Community based activity schemes, offering leisure activities to groups of adults with learning disabilities in two areas of the County (East Hertfordshire and South West Hertfordshire) and would hope to extend this service across the County in subsequent years.

Scheme 9

The scheme providing care in the home, enabling carers to take a regular break will continue in year 3. This is a South West scheme.

Scheme 10

In year 3 college breaks activities schemes will extend into another part of County, so that South West and North Hertfordshire have schemes. A scheme already exists in North West Hertfordshire and the service will be extended to the remaining quadrant in subsequent years.

Scheme 11

A scheme set up in year 1 will continue as planned and provide shared care/ respite care beds in North West Hertfordshire, to enable carers of clients with profound learning and physical disabilities to take a break.

Scheme 12

£33, 500 will be allocated to provide flexible breaks schemes in year 3. This is providing new opportunities and will cover 'break away' schemes for carers' relatives with learning disability from four areas of County and also funds a significant increase in both beds based and non- beds based respite care, available to carers throughout countywide.

Older people and younger disabled people

Scheme 13

Carers of older people have been supported through a number of schemes run by Alzheimer's Society, Countywide Breakaway (N.W.), Gemms (N), Carers in Hertfordshire (S.W.) and Age Concern (N.W. and East). This year's additional allocation allows for a further provision by Age Concern and

Gemms schemes in particular. These schemes all provide volunteer sitting alongside some carer's support.

Scheme 14

Day care services for black and minority ethnic carers have been established in Watford and Three Rivers (5 clubs exist) and the additional allocation will enable services to be established in other parts of county - particularly the North, Hitchin/Letchworth.

Scheme 15

There is a provision in Dacorum that provides day facilities for local people and that can expand if a small allocation of £500 is given.

Scheme 16

A small sum of money was used during 2000/2001 to facilitate the take up of residential respite for older people. This now needs to be extended so that carers can access shorter and more flexible breaks. There is a need to have a more co-ordinated approach to respite care so that more carers will get the break they want. To achieve this there needs to be funding for alternative respite services and co-ordination of the provision.

Additionally, younger people with physical disabilities need to be able to access more flexible forms of respite care - such as cottages with additional support services or family holidays where care services can be purchased to allow the main carers some respite. During 2001/02 we will work with care managers to identify additional flexible services that will mean that more families of people with disabilities have breaks better suited to their needs.

All Adult Care Groups

Scheme 17

Crossroads now provide a sitting service to carers of all adult care groups, although currently the main benefactors are older people. This has been because traditionally Crossroads have provided to carers of older people.

When the Crossroads Scheme was established across county in 1999, the East Hertfordshire was served through a scheme funded through joint finance. This source of funding has now ceased and the scheme needs to be aligned with the other schemes. A sum of money is needed to replace this funding. Hence the increase. This will mean all adult care groups throughout County should be able to access the sitting services which provides a regular 'break' carers and can be directly accessed by carers pending a full assessment from Social Services.

Scheme 18

The Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000 enables local authorities to respond more creatively to carers needs. In line with this, a small sum of money has been allocated to purchase one-off items of equipment or other services that would be an alternative way to meet carers needs - examples such as transport costs, or driving lessons, laundry facilities etc. These services would be provision for the carer and not the person they care for.

Consultation, Planning, and Administration

5% of the grant can be used to provide officer time to consult with colleagues and carers about the breaks schemes and monitor and administer the overall proposals. Last year this funded an officer's time but year on year the grant and number of schemes grow and so there is an increasing need to fund this activity. The children's schemes also need to be planned and monitored and so this year the grant will fund one FTE and one P/T equivalent officer and fund consultation.