

Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board – Carers Priority Delivery Group Memorandum Of Understanding

To support an integrated approach to the identification and support of Carers' health and wellbeing needs in Lincolnshire.

04/07/2023

1. Introduction

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets our approach to implementing an integrated approach to identifying and supporting Carers in Lincolnshire.

2. Our Vision for Carers

Lincolnshire is a place where Carers are recognised, supported and valued as individuals with their own health and wellbeing needs, and are treated as equal and respected partners in their caring role.

3. Working together to support carers, we will:

- a. Achieve the objectives of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Board.
- b. Provide strong local leadership for improving the health and wellbeing of unpaid family carers of all ages, including young carers.
- c. Lead on producing information for the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and ensure that partner agencies use the evidence base as part of their commissioning plans.
- d. Place carers at the heart of the Delivery Group's plans and actions, embedding co-production wherever relevant and possible.
- e. Maximise opportunities for joint working and integration of services, making best use of existing opportunities and processes to prevent duplication or omission.
- f. Maximise opportunities for learning from best practice to shape local strategy and delivery.
- g. Monitor and report on progress in implementing the Delivery Plan.

4. Context

The Care Act (2014) was designed to improve support for carers, promoting wellbeing and aiming to prevent escalation of need.

The Children and Families Act (2014) aimed to improve support for young carers and parent carers by strengthening their right to have an assessment of their needs.

Both Acts created new duties to provide information and preventative support to carers and young carers and placed a new duty on the NHS to cooperate with the local authority in implementing these duties.

5. Key Principles

The integrated approach to identifying, assessing and supporting Carers' health and wellbeing needs rests on several supporting principles. Each of these covers a number of practical points, and each practical point features examples of positive practice to encourage other practitioners and commissioners to replicate or build on success.

Principle 1 - All organisations will take a pro-active approach to identify, register (in Primary Care) and help carers maintain their health and wellbeing.

- Principle 2 - Carers will be respected and listened to as expert care partners, through conversations which recognise their strengths and will be actively involved in care planning, shared decision making and reviewing services.
- Principle 3 - We will take a well-rounded approach to build knowledge and connections, ensure support needs are assessed and met in an integrated way, making sure carers can access appropriate services and support both for themselves and the person they look after.
- Principle 4 - Carers will be empowered to make choices about their caring role.
- Principle 5 - The support needs of carers who are more vulnerable or at key transition points will be identified early.
- Principle 6 - Young carers, young adult carers and carers of working age will be identified and supported in accessing and maintaining education and employment, including the workforce of signatory partners.
- Principle 7 - Carers will be supported by information sharing (with their consent) between health, social care, carer support organisations and other partners to this agreement.
- Principle 8 - The staff of partners to this agreement will be aware of the needs of carers and of their value to our communities.
- Principle 9 - Everyone should have an equal opportunity to access high quality care and support to meet their individual needs and people should not be disadvantaged due to their background, culture or community.

Workers need to be sensitive to people's needs and have the confidence to discuss individuals' differences to find out how they can best offer care and support.

6. Thinking 'Carer'

In order to ensure that carers receive the right support, at the right time, and in the right place, a carer who indicates that they require additional support or that their capacity or willingness to continue caring is diminished, should be referred to the Lincolnshire Carers Service to have their immediate needs addressed.

Where a carer indicates they have a health need during an interaction with the NHS, this health need should be addressed as soon as possible, after which the healthcare practitioner should initiate a discussion about the carer's wider support needs and consider a referral as required to the Lincolnshire Carers Service.

As health and social care develop more integrated approaches to delivering care and support, we will work to develop local data and information sharing processes between agencies. This will help ensure that information follows the carer across their own care and support pathway, without them constantly having to re-tell their story.

Carer friendly employment practices will be promoted within partners own organisations. Partners to this MOU are actively encouraged to sign up to and help promote [Employers for Carers](#) (Free membership is offered to Lincolnshire Health providers through Lincolnshire County Council's Umbrella Subscription).

7. Oversight

We aim to act and work together to ensure momentum continues in the coming years. The key signatories to this MoU will continue to review, evaluate, and identify improvements to supporting carers, reporting these to the Joint Health and Wellbeing Board.

Signatories

Organisation	Name of strategic signatory	Electronic Signature – <i>Please note signatures have been redacted</i>	Date signed
Lincolnshire County Council	Glen Garrod – Executive Director of Adult Care and Community Wellbeing		
Lincolnshire ICB	Martin Fahy – Director of Nursing		16/05/2023
Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust	Sharon Harvey – Director of Nursing and Quality		11/04/2023
Lincolnshire Community Hospital Service Trust	Ceri Lennon		06/04/2023
United Lincolnshire Hospital Trust	Angela Davies Deputy Director of Nursing		19/04/2023
Lincolnshire Voluntary Engagement Team			
SERCO			
Carers First	Alison Taylor		04/05/2023