

TOPIC BRIEF

Topic Title:	Carer Services
Officer Lead:	Paul McWade – Operational Director, Commissioning & Complex Care: People & Economy Directorate
Planned Start Date:	April 2016
Target PPB Meeting:	March 2017

Topic Description and Scope:

This topic will focus on the type and quality of Carers Services provided in Halton and the associated pathways in place to support Carers' ability to access those Services. It will examine these services and associated pathways, with a view to evaluating their effectiveness in meeting the needs of the local population.

Why this topic was chosen:

The Health Policy and Performance Board recognise and value the essential role that carers play in supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

The 2011 census found that there were over 15,000 carers in the Borough who were providing unpaid help and support to their partners and relatives etc.

- Approximately 8,000 individuals provided unpaid care for 1 – 19 hours per week;
- Nearly 2,500 individuals in Halton provided unpaid care from 20 – 49 hours per week; and
- Over 4,500 individuals provided unpaid care for 50 or more hours per week

It should be noted that approximately 3,000 carers were aged 65 and over.

With the introduction of the Care Act 2014, Carers are now recognised in law in the same way as those they care for; this means they have the right to an assessment of their needs. As a consequence, the Act has resulted in an unprecedented focus on Carers and their own health and for the first time sets out a set of national criteria to establish whether the Carer is eligible for support. If this is the case they are entitled to a Carer Support Plan and a further review of their status after 6 to 9 weeks. The purpose of this review is to see whether the impact of their caring role is still significant.

It is felt that this Scrutiny topic will provide the Board with the opportunity to actively contribute to the review and development of a new service specification for the Halton Carers Centre and development of a Carer's Strategy, which have been identified as key developments in respect of Adult Social Care during 2016/17, as part of the Business Planning process, in addition to ensuring that the Local Authority is discharging its duty in respect of Carers as outlined in the Care Act 2014.

Key outputs and outcomes sought:

- An understanding of existing Carers Services available in Halton and associated pathways for Carers to be able to access them.
- An understanding of the role that all agencies, including their associated responsibilities, (both statutory and voluntary/community sector) play in the provision of Carers Services.

- Ensure services provided take into consideration national best and evidence based practice.
- Consider ways to continue to make improvements to Carers Services in Halton to ensure they continue to be effective in meeting the needs of the population of Halton.
- An understanding of the different elements of service monitoring that take place in respect of this area of provision.
- Identification of the best methods for measuring the outcomes for Carers.
- Outcome of Scrutiny review to contribute to the development of the new service specification for Halton Carers Centre and the development of Halton's Carers Strategy.

Which of Halton's 5 strategic priorities this topic addresses and the key objectives and improvement targets it will be help to achieve:

A Healthy Halton – To improve the health and wellbeing of Halton people so they live longer, healthier and happier lives

- To understand fully the causes of ill health in Halton and act together to improve the overall health and well-being of local people.
- To respond to the needs of an ageing population improving their quality of life and thus enabling them to lead longer, active and more fulfilled lives.
- To remove barriers that disabled people face and contribute to poor health by working across partnerships to address the wider determinants of health such as unemployment, education and skills, housing, crime and environment.
- To improve access to health services, including primary care.

Nature of expected/ desired PPB input:

Member led scrutiny review of Carer Services and how these Services can be accessed.

Preferred mode of operation:

- Meetings with/presentations from relevant officers from within the Council and partner agencies to examine current services.
- Visit to Halton Carers Centre/Other Carers Centre.
- Carer Interviews.
- Desk top research in relation to national best and evidence based practice.

Agreed and signed by:

PPB chair

Officer

Date

Date