

SSA EQUALITY IMPACT AND NEEDS ANALYSIS

Directorate	Directorate of Adult Social Services Commissioning Unit – Prevention and Wellbeing
Service Area	Support Services for Unpaid Carers provided by the Wandsworth Carers Partnership
Service/policy/function being assessed	Preventative and Carer Services
Which borough (s) does the service/policy apply to	Wandsworth
Staff involved	Steve Shaffelburg; ASC Commissioning Manager
Date approved by Policy and Review Manager	10/10/2019

SUMMARY

Carers Partnership Wandsworth provides a range of preventative services for unpaid carers in Wandsworth via the Wandsworth Carers Centre and one sub-contractor, Bluebird Care. The key components are information, advice and informal advocacy; peer support; respite; health & social care liaison & training, and; back care and therapies.

This EINA has not found many significant negative impacts of the Service on most of the protected characteristics and overall, the current services are being delivered as expected inclusively of carers with protected characteristics. The Provider works particularly well with older carers, BME carers and carers of people with dementia.

The service also supports a much higher proportion of carers who report health issues than the proportion of carers reporting bad health borough wide.

Male carers and those from different religious groups using the service are slightly under-represented, while figures for LGBT carers are significantly low. It is expected that each of these findings will be addressed in the specification for the new service.

1. Background

Carers are an integral element of the health and social care system. They provide an invaluable service that ensures the continued health and wellbeing of those they care for, and act as experts-by-experience who deliver vital services that are nationally worth an estimated £132 billion (Carers UK, 2016 State of Caring Report), equivalent to the annual budget of the NHS.

It is estimated that 3 in 5 people will become carers at some point in their lives (Carers UK, 2016 State of Caring Report) however the caring role is often misunderstood or undervalued in society, which can lead to carers feeling isolated or overlooked. The act of caring can also impact negatively on health and wellbeing. Caring for someone who is ill can take a serious toll on a carers' mental and physical health, their personal relationships and family finances, ability to maintain or return to employment, the educational achievement of young carers.

Carers need to be recognised and valued, they should find it simple and easy to interact with health and care systems, and should be able to access the information, advice and support they need to preserve their personal health and wellbeing and support them in their caring role. The Council currently commissions Carers Partnership Wandsworth (CPW) to support carers in their caring role and to maintain their own health and well-being.

CPW has delivered support to adult carers in Wandsworth since August 2015. The Partnership is formed of Wandsworth Carers Centre was commissioned (lead provider) and Bluebird Care (sub-contracted to deliver the respite service).

The contract was awarded on a 3+2-year term and will expire on 31st July 2020.

2. Analysis of need and impact

Impact Findings for Protected Groups

Protected group	Findings
Age	<p>Nationally, the peak age for caring is 50-64 years. 34% of carers are aged between 25 and 49 years, 38% between 50 and 64 years, and 22% are aged over 65 years.</p> <p>In Wandsworth the peak age is 25-49 with 52.2% of carers falling into this age group, with, 11.8% being between 50-64 and 8.5% being over 65. This trend is closely reflected in the number of carers, 26-64 who access CPW (62%), however the proportion of carers 65 and over who access the service is disproportionate to the total carer population at 32%.</p> <p>Nationally 6% of people under 25 are carers, but the figure for Wandsworth is much larger at 27.5%. The proportion of carers under 25 that are registered to CPW does not reflect the borough wide figure. This can in part be attributed in part to the fact that CPW currently only works with carers over the age of 18.</p>

Protected group	Findings
	<p style="text-align: center;">Provision of Unpaid Care by Age (Wandsworth)</p> <p>In summary, older residents will benefit disproportionately from the service because carers tend to be older. Younger carers, because they are not currently included in this service, may be disadvantaged.</p>
Disability	<p>Carers are more likely to report health problems: Nationally, 20% of carers report poor health, compared to 11% of those who do not provide care.</p> <p>In Wandsworth 6.2% percent of carers reported having bad or very bad health as opposed to 3.6% of the overall population. Of the carers registered to CPW 16.6% report having a health problem, meaning that the service supports a higher than average number of carers with a health issue.</p> <p>In summary, because carers tend to have more health problems than non-carers, people with disabilities are more likely to benefit from this service.</p>
Gender (sex)	<p>Nationally, there are more female than male carers (59% of carers are female).</p> <p>Of the carers registered to CPW, 27.7% are male. Even allowing that males make up less than half of the Wandsworth population (48%); male carers are under-represented within the service.</p> <p>Currently, women are benefiting from the service disproportionately to the need.</p>
Gender reassignment	<p>Providers do not currently request this data from service users.</p>
Marriage and civil partnership	<p>Providers do not currently request this data from service users.</p>
Pregnancy and maternity	<p>Providers do not currently request this data from service users.</p>
Race/ethnicity	<p>29.9% of people living in Wandsworth are from a BAME background, with people from Asian (10.4%) and Black (11.8%) communities accounting for the highest proportions.</p>

Protected group	Findings
	The proportion of BAME carers known to CPW is 56.9% which suggests that the likelihood of becoming a carer may be impacted by cultural factors. The proportion of BAME carers registered to CPW reflect the proportions borough-wide at 17.1% and 19.1% respectively.
Religion and belief, including non-belief	In Wandsworth Christianity is the highest represented religious group at 56.9%, followed by those who report 'no religion' (27%) and then those who report being Muslim (8.1%). 7.9% of people did not state their religious beliefs. Although each of these religious groups appear to be underrepresented in the carer population registered to CPW, the proportions generally follow a similar trend to that of the wider population, with Christianity at 15.3%, no religion at 8.8%, Muslim at 6.5% and 2.1% of carers not wishing to disclose their religious belief.
Sexual orientation	A government report estimates that between 5% and 7% of the population in England and Wales is LGB. Of the carers registered to CPW 0.9% identified themselves as LGBT, this suggests that LGBT carers are largely under-represented within the service. Of the remainder of carers registered, 39.9% identified as heterosexual with 46% identifying as 'other' or not providing this information.

3 Data Gaps

There are no significant data gaps identified.

4 Impact

Protected group	Positive	Negative
Age	Greater focus on young carers proposed and transitions into adulthood	No negative impact is anticipated for any of the protected characteristics
Disability	Greater focus on support for parental carers of children with learning and physical disabilities	
Gender (sex)	Greater focus on male carers	
Gender reassignment	No change proposed	
Marriage and civil partnership	No Change proposed	
Pregnancy and maternity	No change proposed	
Race/ethnicity	No change proposed	
Religion and belief, including non belief	No change proposed	
Sexual orientation	Greater focus on support for LGBT carers	

3. Actions

Action	Lead Officer	Deadline
Include specific action in the specification for the provider to develop innovative approaches to support male carers	Steve Shaffelburg	December 2019

Include specific action in the specification for the lead provider to explore best practice for LGB carers	Steve Shaffelburg	December 2019
Include specific action in the specification to ensure that this service is linking to Children’s Services that are supporting the needs of young carers.		

4. Consultation. (optional section– as appropriate)

Carers, cared for people and providers are being consulted on the development of the new service specifications.