

# Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group

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## Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which was received into this office on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.

### You Asked for:

- 1. Please provide a full breakdown of how the £2.8m referred to above has been spent to offer Wirral Carers short breaks each year up until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.**

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group was formally established as of April 2013 and can only respond in relation to the 2013-14 and 2014-15 financial years. The CCG recognise the £0.7m reference regarding 2011/12 NHS operating framework and adjustment to the respective PCT baseline but this was prior to CCG's creation and PCT frameworks are not necessarily directly transferrable to successor organisations particularly as the funding allocations for CCG's are based on a revised methodology.

However, Wirral CCG has continued to support Carers and in particular a Carers Identification and Short Break scheme through resources made available to match 'carer' demand through a service provision agreement with WIRED (Wirral Information resource for Equality and Diversity Ltd) during both these financial years with expenditure of £219k and £283k in 2013/14 and 2014/15 years respectively.

In addition, the CCG also commission's services that provides further support to Carers alongside the Carers Identification and Short Break scheme; these include Dementia Outreach service; Dementia Day Care; Early On-set Dementia Day and Outreach service and respite through domiciliary care and an activities club. The total value of annual investment in these services of which carers benefit from is £574k

- 2. How many Wirral Carers have been supported through this funding up until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015?**

Since April 2013 and up until the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, there have been 3,427 Wirral Carers short breaks supported through this funding.

- 3. How much, if any, of the funding remains un-spent up until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015?**

As per above, Wirral CCG made available resources through WIRED to meet all requested need for carer 'identification' and 'short breaks' provision alongside additional services that carers benefit from as described above.

#### **4. What plans are in place for any residual funding?**

As per above

#### **5. Where can we find the Equality Impact Assessment carried out by the CCG when de-Commissioning a service?**

The Wirral Carers short breaks service has not been decommissioned by Wirral Clinical Commissioning group, rather transferred to the Local Authority as part of the Better Care Fund arrangements.

#### **6. Please provide details what Wirral CCG are doing to address the 37 commitments offered through the NHS Commitment to Carers 2014?**

Iain Stewart CCG, Carol Jones DASS and Jacqui Canning Wired attended the launch of the NHS England's Commitment to Carers event in Leicester in July 2014. The Report has been discussed at the Carers Partnership Board meetings, the joint strategic group for Carers, which has representation from the CCG, DASS, voluntary sector (ACE and Wired representatives) and Carers. The Commitment to Carers includes the appointment of GP Carers Champions and the Caring for Carers Information Hub. The NW regional GP Carers Champion provided the Carers Partnership Board with a presentation on the work that is taking place, locally and nationally (attached). The Carers Partnership Board will continue to keep abreast with the strategic developments set out in the Commitment to Carers Report.

Wirral's Strategy for Carers 2014 - 2017 has been co-produced through the Carers Partnership Board, Wirral's Action Plan is being revised in light of national developments such as the NHS England's Commitment to Carers and the HM Government Carers Strategy: Second Action Plan 2014 – 2017.

A range of consultation events with carers and providers were held through the summer and autumn in 2014 about the re-commissioning of Carers Support Services and aligning this commission with Wirral's Strategy for Carers. The key elements for development include:

- Improvement of recognition of Carers across all agencies
- Carers accessing services and support networks in their communities
- Improving Carers health and wellbeing
- Support for Carers into employment, education and training
- Supporting Carers to have a life outside of their caring role
- Valuing Carers as experts in the care of the person
- Supporting agencies to adopt the 'whole family approach'
- Improved diversity of Carers involved in the design and delivery of services

The Wired Carers Identification and Short Break funding was delivered as a 3 year contract from Wirral CCG from the Carers Breaks fund. In the spending round in 2013, government announced the development of the Integration Transformation Fund (now known as the Better Care Fund). The Better Care Fund comes into effect from April 2015 and is comprised of several funding streams, including the Carers Breaks Fund.

Health and social care commissioning is becoming increasingly integrated. This is a requirement of the Care Act, and the new Better Care Fund enables the pooling of resources across health and social care and must be used to support adult social care services. The integration of health

and social care is being developed as part of Vision 2018 project and there have been a range of provider engagement meetings, as well as patient, service user and public engagement events.

The joint commissioning of the Carers Health and Wellbeing service has resulted in Wired as the lead organisation in a consortium of ACE members to deliver the Carers Practical Support and Carers Grants element of the commission; Early On-set Daytime Activities through Age UK and 12 residential EMI short break beds. Further commissioning activity is currently taking place to provide a Care at Home and Outreach service and residential short break beds to support Carers in Wirral. Carers are further supported through the DASS funded Early Intervention and Prevention commission through Carers information and advice, day care and advocacy services.

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