

12 December 2009

Our Reference: MAS

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BY EMAIL & POST

Councillor Maria Caulfield
C/O Sandra Edwards
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Dear Cllr Caulfield

Funds for Breaks for Carers

Thank you for your letter dated 30 November 2009 about PCT funding to support breaks for carers. As you state, the National Carers Strategy, published in June 2008, set out a challenging agenda for change with specific targets and priority areas for action. In terms of funding, the Strategy indicated that £150m funding would be included in baseline funding allocations for PCTs to support implementation of the strategy in respect of breaks for carers. This funding is not ringfenced and is not a specific allocation to individual PCTs.

The PCT is currently considering plans to spend some of this funding in 2010/11 based on priorities in the local Carers Strategy. These were agreed by the Joint Commissioning Board on 16 November 2009.

We have not yet decided how the money will be spent but the plans we have are described below.

- More money for short breaks such as home based respite or outreach activities. This will be given to users and/or carers as an Individual Budget or Direct Payment after the carer has had an assessment of their needs.
- Transition and bereavement support service which will aim to support carers at key stages in their lives such as when the cared for person moves into independent or supported accommodation or long-term care and following bereavement. The service would aim to assist with transition including return to work/education/training, reintegration into communities after isolation of caring etc.
- Young Carers Schools Worker to raise awareness with both pupils and staff, develop guidance for schools, deliver casework to individual young carers and support transition between primary and secondary schools. Over three years this service would cover all junior, primary, secondary and special schools in the city.
- End of Life Care Information - Funding would be used set up a patient and carer panel to review information that is currently given to people at the end of life and to re-write or develop new information based on local need.

Chairman: Alan McCarthy Chief Executive: Darren Grayson

Switchboard: 01273 295490 - we are happy to accept Typetalk calls
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If carers want to tell us their views, Tamsin Peart, who is the Joint Commissioner for Carers' Services, would be very happy to attend a future Learning Disability Partnership Board meeting to discuss carers' issues.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Darren Grayson
Chief Executive