



<b>Name of Committee:</b>	<b>Social &amp; Health Care Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>
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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>North Wales (draft) Information and Consultation Strategy 2012-2015</b>
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**Summary  
or  
Issues of  
Significance**

On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012, the Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure came in to force and the guidance for its implementation was issued to the Local Health Boards and Local Authorities.

There has been a duty on Local Authorities since 1995 to provide services for Carers and all 6 Local Authorities in North Wales has an established strategy in place outlining local service provision for Carers. This is first time legislative duties have been placed on the NHS in relation to services for carers in Wales.

The purpose of the Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure 2010 is to:-

- Create a cultural change so that Carers are empowered in the decision making processes around care management
- Ensure that Carers' issues are mainstreamed into the everyday working practices of NHS and other staff;
- Facilitate early identification of Carers by Health Service professionals;
- Ensure that Carers receive earlier and more planned support through local partnerships or joint commissioning involving the NHS, Local Authorities, the Third sector and the private sector;

One of the requirement's of the Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure 2010 is that the NHS and Local Authorities work in partnership to prepare, publish and implement a local Information and Consultation Strategy for Carers.

The North Wales Carers leads Strategic Group was established in 2011 to oversee this work. This group consists of representatives from BCUHB, the 6 local authorities and the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector carers organisations.

The North Wales Information and Consultation Strategy (2012-2015) sets out the key actions that are considered necessary to achieve the cultural change and the minimum requirements as outlined in the Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure 2010 guidance document.

Strong and effective partnerships will be crucial to enable the

	<p>successful delivery of these challenging key actions.</p> <p>Of particular note for the partnership is the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The strategy has the potential to strengthen carer information services</li> <li>• Improvements in joint working</li> <li>• Potential increase in referrals for support to the Carers Outreach Centres</li> <li>• Potential increase in the number of referrals for Carers Needs Assessment and subsequent increase in Carers Needs Assessment process</li> <li>• Potential increase in demand for services</li> <li>• Good practice recommendation with the Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure 2010 guidance document that organisations (including GP's) request to see a copy of the Carers Needs Assessment</li> <li>• Performance monitoring framework; need to develop joint reporting systems</li> </ul>
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<b>Strategic Theme / Priority / Values addressed by this paper</b>	<i>Making it safe / better / sound / work / happen</i>
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<b>Healthcare Standard addressed</b>	<p>Standard 2: Equality, Diversity &amp; Human Rights</p> <p>Standard 5: Citizen Engagement &amp; Feedback</p> <p>Standard 6: Participating in Quality Improvement Activities</p> <p>Standard 9: Patient Information &amp; Consent</p> <p>Standard 10: Dignity &amp; Respect</p>
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<b>Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)</b>	<p><i>The FREDA (Equality) principles are embedded within the discussions within the North Wales Carers Leads Strategy Group and will be implicit throughout the strategy.</i></p> <p><i>An EqIA impact assessment is currently being undertaken.</i></p>
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<b>Recommendations:</b>	The North Wales Adult Service Heads support the submission of the strategy for approval to Welsh Government and the ongoing work of the partnership.
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<b>Presented by</b>	Dawn Cooper, Head of Service User Experience
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<b>Date of report</b>	October 2012
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<b>Date of meeting</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> November 2012
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