

Runnymede Borough Council

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday 14 September 2017 at 7.30 pm

in the Council Chamber, Runnymede Civic Centre, Addlestone

ADDENDUM

**7. SURREY CARERS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND ACTION PLAN
(COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT)**

At the time of printing the agenda the attached Equality Impact Assessment had not been finalised.

EQUALITY SCREENING

Equality Impact Assessment guidance should be considered when completing this form.

POLICY/FUNCTION/ACTIVITY	LEAD OFFICER
Grant Aid - Surrey Carers Memorandum of Understanding	Suzanne Stronge

A. What is the aim of this policy, function or activity? Why is it needed? What is it hoped to achieve and how will it be ensured it works as intended? Does it affect service users, employees or the wider community?

The report to committee seeks approval to sign up to the Surrey County Council Memorandum of Understanding to achieve the following outcomes for carers:

Carers:

- feel that they can remain part of the community
- have more choice and control over day to day life whilst choosing to continue to care
- have a break from caring
- are able to maintain/make friendships and relationships
- are able to undertake leisure activities
- are able to access educational/learning activities – whether recreational (for fun/interest) or vocational (employment related and/or leading to a qualification) – includes support to young carers taking GCSEs/NVQs
- able to carry on caring where there is a choice
- helped to maintain their health and wellbeing e.g. exercise, complementary therapies, stress reduction activities
- are able to remain in or return to employment
- are supported to remain safe

An action plan has been developed, which is for all carers irrespective of their gender, sexual orientation or ethnicity.

B. Is this policy, function or activity relevant to equality? Does the policy relate to an area in which there are known inequalities, or where different groups have different needs or experience? Remember, it may be relevant because there are opportunities to promote equality and greater access, not just potential for adverse impacts or unlawful discrimination.

The Action Plan would have a positive impact on carers with the protected characteristics of age and sex and more particularly women who make up [%] of all carers and your and older carers as there will be more generic information produced that has not been available before, at different times of the year. This will include a Carers Rights Day with links to the Carers Rights Day website to national help and support.

Disabled carers are more likely to be living on benefits and in debt than other carers. Carers with a physical disability will receive home visits and help with benefits from the Runnymede and Spelthorne Citizen's Advice Bureau. Currently this is a service they do not receive from the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Nationally there are half a million BME carers and 43% live in London. It is not known how many BME carers there are in Surrey, only the BME carers who access services are known. Lack of up take on services by BME carers can be as a result of language difficulties, and culture i.e. not wanting to accept help. There is no budget to provide language specific materials or materials in BRAILLE, but information will be sent to relevant organisations such as SAVI who support people with visual and sensory disabilities. In addition, the representatives of other ethnic communities will be contacted and given the information e.g. Gypsy/Travellers.

The Memorandum of Understanding and the action plan will improve access to services for all carers who approach Runnymede Borough Council. There are 7,328 carers in Runnymede. Using the Surrey wide percentages on the Runnymede statistic, then 40% of carers are looking after their parents/in-laws, 26% care for their spouse/partner, 58% of carers are likely to be looking after someone with disability, 20% are likely to be looking after someone with a sensory impairment, 13% will be looking after someone with a mental health problem and 10% looking after someone with dementia. In addition, 8% of carers are likely to be disabled carers.

The number of carers working full time in Runnymede is 4,514. Included in this figure are 89 full time students. There are no separate statistics regarding young carers in Runnymede. However, statistics are available for the number of young carers in the three boroughs of Woking, Runnymede and Spelthorne which totals 1,481.

18% of Surrey carers are from an ethnic background. In Runnymede there is a high number of settled gypsy/travellers

Using the 2011 census data for Runnymede; 91.9% of people living in Runnymede speak English. The other top languages spoken are 0.8% All other Chinese, 0.7% Polish, 0.5% Spanish, 0.4% Tagalog/Filipino, 0.4% Italian, 0.4% French, 0.3% Portuguese, 0.3% German, 0.3% Russian.

In Surrey only 1.8% of carers receiving services are from a BME background i.e. 73 carers.

According to the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2006 – 2016 there are in the region of 2,880 settled gypsy and travellers in Runnymede.

- The community is characterised by a sense of fatalism and low expectations in relation to health
- Fear and a lack of knowledge about statutory services mean that they are often

only accessed at a point of crisis

Services can be 'hard to reach' for gypsy traveller families, for reasons including expectations around literacy; issues of trust and discrimination; and the isolated location of many settled gypsy traveller sites. Gypsy and Traveller young people are over-represented within Surrey's Youth Justice system.

In view of this the awareness campaigns for carers will also focus on the hard to reach BME groups by targeting the representatives of ethnic communities in Runnymede.

There will be more awareness campaigns over a wider range of services than before. All carers in receipt of Community Services or carers who arrange services for their loved ones will receive campaign material.

Awareness campaigns will be run locally using the newspaper, the Runnymede Borough Council website, plus leaflets will be sent to carers on the community services register.

Working with the Citizen's Advice Bureau, disabled carers will be targeted via Social Services. There will also be partnership working with Surrey Young Carers to reach young carers.

Posters will be put in in the Community Transport vehicles and Community Services staff will receive the "Make Every Contact Count Training" to identify carers.

If the policy, function or activity is considered to be relevant to equality then a full Equality Impact Assessment must be carried out.

C. If the policy, function or activity is not considered to be relevant to equality, what are the reasons for this conclusion? What evidence has been used to make this decision? A simple statement of 'no relevance' or 'no data' is not sufficient.

No full impact assessment is needed because more generic information will be available for all carers than Runnymede Borough Council has provided before. Measures as identified in part B will also be taken for particular carers e.g. those with disability and gypsy/travellers within existing resources. The achievement of the Runnymede Borough Council action plan that has been developed from the Surrey Memorandum of Understanding will provide better access to services for all carers.

There is a great deal of data available on the Surrey I Partnership website giving details of carers and protected characteristics.

The Action Plan to support carers will be reviewed every three years by the Projects and Partnerships Officer.

This screening assessment will need to be referred to the Equality Group for challenge before sign-off.

Date completed: 08.09.17
Sign-off by senior manager: 