



# Summary of Calderdale Carers' Strategy 2009-12



# **Our vision** is a community that offers carers choice and opportunities, timely help and support that involves:

- **recognising and valuing carers in Calderdale as care partners and supporting them in their caring role**
- **partnership with carers in the planning and delivery of services**
- **integrated health and social care provision, with voluntary and independent service providers working in partnership for the benefit of carers**
- **provision of appropriate information, support and involvement opportunities to maintain carers' health and independence**
- **supporting carers to stay physically and mentally well**
- **protecting children and young people from inappropriate caring and ensuring that they have the support they need to learn, develop and thrive to achieve positive childhoods and to achieve against all Every Child Matters outcomes.**

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## **How will the vision be delivered?**

- A new worker to lead on developments for carers in Calderdale.
  - NHS Calderdale and Calderdale Council will work together to make sure that the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment reflects the needs of carers in Calderdale and use this to provide breaks for carers.
  - A Carers Link Worker will encourage carers to have recorded Backup Plans.
  - A permanent Carers' Case Worker to support carers through crises and difficult times.
  - Calderdale Carers Project will be reviewed to make sure it can meet the needs of carers in Calderdale.
  - Looking After Me courses will continue to be supported.
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In Calderdale there are approximately 20,000 carers - about 10% of the population. Many carers do not think of themselves as a carer and so do not know about the services and support which is available to them. The rising older people population highlights the importance of carers and the services they provide – given that the majority of carers care for older people.

The strategy sets out how carers will be supported in Calderdale over the next three years. The strategy reflects the needs of carers in Calderdale and follows the key themes of the *National Strategy for Carers; Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities*.

## What are we aiming for?

- ✓ **Identifying carers** - to know who are carers in Calderdale, and to use Carer's Assessments to get to know new carers who are beginning the caring role.
- ✓ **Information** - to provide information on the Internet so it's available 24 hours a day, plus Carer's Information Packs in various languages and formats.
- ✓ **Breaks for carers** - to use Carer's Grants, Direct Payments and Individual Budgets to support breaks for carers,
- ✓ **Emergency respite care and Backup Plans** - to encourage carers to make Backup Plans which can be recorded and regularly reviewed, and to have better emergency respite care.
- ✓ **Improving the health and well-being of carers** - to review Calderdale Carers Project support groups which provide outings, therapy sessions, luncheon clubs, holiday groups, and training courses for carers. - to work with GPs to extend carer's health checks.
- ✓ **A voice for carers** - to have a carer on the Carer's Strategy Group, the Local Involvement Network and all partnership boards in Calderdale, and to consult with carers on decisions about local services.
- ✓ **Income and employment** - to support carers to stay in work, training or education, offering flexible - evening and weekend - care packages.
- ✓ **Young carers** - to raise awareness and to support long term funding for young carers' services, plus a transition group for 18 to 25 year old carers.



If you would like this information in another format or language, please contact: Tel: 01422 363561

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## **This is a summary of Calderdale Carers' Strategy.**

The strategy has been produced by the Carers Strategy Group. This group has representatives from organisations involved with carers, including Calderdale Council and NHS Calderdale. This group will be responsible for overseeing the delivery of the strategy.

The strategy has been approved by the Calderdale Health and Social Care Partnership Board.

**The full strategy can be seen on  
Calderdale Council's web site  
[www.calderdale.gov.uk](http://www.calderdale.gov.uk)**

