

'VALUING CARERS' COMPACT



VALUING CARERS - ABMU Carers Partnership
Carers Information and Consultation Strategy

OUR VISION

Our vision is that all Carers, irrespective of age and situation, should be supported throughout their time as a Carer, given information when they need it and in a way which meets their needs and be full partners in the planning and provision of care and support for those they care for...

INTRODUCTION

ABMU Carers Partnership Board was established in 2012 in response to the Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure 2010 which required NHS and Local Authorities in Wales to work in partnership to prepare an Information and Consultation Strategy for Carers. The group produced *Valuing Carers - ABMU Carers Partnership Carers Information and Consultation Strategy 2013 – 2016*. The purpose of this strategy is to ensure ABMU Health Board and its Local Authority and 3rd Sector partners working together to inform and consult with Carers when they access health and Local Authority services. The Health Board has the responsibility for publishing the strategy and both the Health Board and Local Authorities have the responsibility for putting it into action; additionally, they recognised that they could not achieve the outcomes set out in the strategy without the input and support from the Carers Services established in Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea. The role Carers Services and Carer representative organisations play in supporting Carers is valued and is captured in the strategy.

The *Valuing Carers* strategy and action plan covers a three year period and runs from 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2016. The Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure 2010 will be repealed in 2016 when the new law is enacted. A *Valuing Carers* Transition Plan for the period of April 2016 to March 2017 is currently in development to build on the achievements of the strategy and move on to the enactment of the Social Services and Well-Being Act. Carers have greater prominence within the new Act for example, there is a wider definition of a Carer; they will no longer have to provide 'regular and substantial' care to be able to have an assessment and Local Authorities will have a duty to meet Carers eligible needs. The new Act also requires that Local Authorities and Local Health Boards co-operate and work in partnership.

Carers

For the purpose of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 a "Carer" means a person who provides or intends to provide care for an adult or disabled child; A person is not a carer for the purposes of this Act if the person provides or intends to provide care— (a) under or by virtue of a contract, or (b) as voluntary work. But a local authority may treat a person as a carer for the purposes of any of its functions under this Act if the authority considers that the relationship between the person providing or intending to provide care and the person for whom that care is, or is to

be, provided is such that it would be appropriate for the former to be treated as a carer for the purposes of that function or those functions.

SOURCE: Key Terms - Section 3.4, 3.7 and 3.8, page 6, Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2014/4/pdfs/anaw_20140004_en.pdf

A Carer can be someone who has the responsibility for providing or arranging care for someone else who, because of long term condition, mental illness, disability, old age or substance misuse is not able to care for themselves.

THE 'VALUING CARERS' COMPACT

A Compact is an agreement between individuals, groups or organisations. The 'Valuing Carers' Compact provides a framework for collaborative working between all the organisations which make up the ABMU Carers Partnership Board. The purpose of the Compact is to formalise the excellent joint working which has resulted from the establishment of the Carers Partnership Board.

COMPACT PARTNERS

The ABMU Carers Partnership Board is chaired by the Primary and Community Service Director ABMU and the Group Manager Mental Health Wellbeing Bridgend County Borough Council and comprises, the Local Authority Officers /Carers Lead, Locality Planning and Partnership Managers, and Locality Planning and Partnership Support Managers, ABMU Programme Manager Mental Health, ABMU Carers Champion, Managers of Swansea, Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot Carers Services, CVS Health and Well-being Facilitator.

- Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board
- Bridgend Carers Centre
- Bridgend County Borough Council
- City and County of Swansea Council
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- Neath Port Talbot Carers Service
- Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Services (NPT CVS)
- Swansea Carers Centre
- Swansea Council for Voluntary Services (SCVS)

There will be opportunities for other organisations to sign up to the Compact should they wish to do so in the future.

COMPACT PARTNERS COMMITMENT

All partners agree to adhere to the values and principles of the 'Valuing Carers' Compact and to proactively work together for the benefit of Carers living in the ABMU area.

SHARED VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

All partner organisations aim to engage with and listen to Carers of all ages, in addition, to provide quality services including information and support. Partner organisations acknowledge that a multi-disciplinary, multi-agency approach is needed to successfully address the broad range of issues faced by Carers in the area.

The following principles are at the core of this partnership:-

Working together

- We will work together to identify and support Carers
- We will work together across sectors and geographical boundaries
- We will agree to work on strategic priorities (Carers) which are common to all partners
- We will agree the prioritisation of actions and activities (Carers) e.g. Valuing Carers Transition Plan
- We will disseminate information about the work of the Carers Partnership Board within our own organisations and other networks
- We will seek the views of and listen to each other - each viewpoint will be given equal consideration
- We will share best practice
- Communication will be open and truthful
- We respect partner organisations differences and accept that each sector will have its own priorities, responsibilities and constraints
- We see the diversity of partnership organisations in terms of complementary roles

Supporting Carers

- We acknowledge the invaluable contribution Carers make
- We recognise that Carers can be any age and that children and young adults as well as older people may have a caring role
- We recognise that each Carer is an individual and that carrying out a caring role may have positive and/ or negative effects on that individuals' quality of life
- We actively engage with Carers; this can be on an individual basis, for example, when planning or delivering services to the person being supported or the Carer. We also create or maintain opportunities for Carers to be involved at a strategic level for example, planning or evaluating services
- Where opportunities arise we will work together to expand the range of services and activities available to Carers
- ABMU Carers Partnership Board members will proactively raise awareness of Carers and the 'Valuing Carers' Compact within their organisations.

COMPACT OUTCOMES

ABMU Carers Partnership Board believes that by working together the following outcomes will be achieved:-

- Continue to keep Carers and the issues they face high on the agenda in all partner organisations
- Maximise opportunities to work together to deliver services, response to strategic and legislative requirements and share best practice
- Demonstrate a commitment into the future to improve the lives of Carers of all ages living in the ABMU area.

MANAGING THE COMPACT

ABMU Carers Partnership Group meets quarterly to oversee the Implementation of the *Valuing Carers* Information and Consultation Strategy.

The Compact will be reviewed on an annual basis and a report will be produced to outline achievements.