

HOSC/24/10

Committee Health Overview and Scrutiny – Dementia Task and Finish Group

Date 5 November 2010

Essex and Southend Local Involvement Network (LINK)

Statement of views and concerns raised by Carers

Introduced by Kay Ellis

After consultation with some of our carers and with knowledge of what their days are like, I have presented some statements for the panel:

Clear information:- given at time of diagnosis

What Social workers can do

The criteria for having a social worker

What respite care is available – the work load – the criteria for getting respite

Clear Boundaries:-

Cross boundary issue are very confusing. GP area, social care area, and hospitals do not always cover the same geographic areas.. Carers and professionals need clarification as to who goes or does what.

Need to have a NAMED Social worker.

A consistent and uniform service thought the County.

Cut out all the Red Tape.

Respite Care.

This is very import for the wellbeing of Carers. It needs to be planned so that they can gain the optimum benefits from it. It is no good offering respite in a couple of months and confirming two weeks before. This does not give the Carer an opportunity to arrange anything. I know of a case where this has happened.

It is important that carers, looking after someone with dementia, should be issued with a parking permit, no matter what the walking abilities of that person may be.

Scenario 1:- A Carer parks their car in a car park out of sight of a parking metre. They can get the person with dementia out and walk them to the metre and back again, which is OK if they are compliant that day. Or they can leave them in the car, and risk them getting out and walking away, or they can lock them in and risk them getting angry and confused. With a parking permit, at least they would be nearer to the metre.

Scenario 2:- The Day Care at Epping has very limited parking and yellow lines in the road outside. Carers without a permit have been told by wardens that they have two minutes to park there and then they will be issued with a ticket. It is impossible to get someone, who may be reluctant to do so, out of the car and walk up to the door in this time. They have to wait to be let in as the building has to be kept secure, see them settled and leave. Two minutes is nowhere near long enough.

There are other times when a parking permit is necessary for the safety of the person with dementia.

Carers requiring care and health services as a direct result of being carers

We noted that the panel were looking at the percentage of carers requiring care and health services as a direct result of being carers. The response from our carers was that they all needed these services. They are carers 24/7, and if they are to continue as such they also need help and care and they should be seen as individuals with needs as much as the person they care for.

We have concerns about Personal Budgets and the effect it could have on the County grants to Day Care services offered by the Alzheimer's Society. We rely on the grants to continue running the service, with a charge from the clients for their meals, refreshments and other sundries. If we have to rely on Daily payment from clients, the cost to them will have to rise considerable, and we may not realise the full cost of a day's care if some are unable to attend, as they will not wish to pay for a service they have not received. The cost of hire and the cost of staff remain the same for 100% attendance or if it is less than 100%.

Declarations of Interest

I think that I should make my Declarations of Interest.

I am a volunteer with the Epping Forest Alzheimer's Society. I was also the Chair of the Management Committee until the Society's recent "make over".

I chair the Epping Forest Joint Management Team for Older Peoples Service. This consists of managers from Health, Social Services, District Councils Older Peoples Services and Voluntary Action Epping Forest.

I am Dignity Champion for West Essex Community Hospitals

I sit on West Essex Quality, Risk and Governance Committee.

