



## **'Measure Up' 2012 – 14: Torbay's Interagency Carers Strategy**

### **Report to the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board Circulated Under the Ten Day Rule on 21 February 2012**

#### **1. What are we trying to achieve for our communities?**

- 1.1 Measure Up' provides the framework for development of Carers support in Torbay. 'Measure Up' was first published in 2000 and has provided a long term joint agency approach to supporting carers, and recognition of their role for care in the community. Previous editions of Measure Up have been endorsed by Torbay Strategic Partnership. This draft strategy sets out proposed priorities for Measure Up 2012 – 14 - in relation to its key aims, the relevant legislation and the requirements in the national carers strategy (2010). It is being produced at a time of considerable change in the landscape of health and social care, and is intended to maintain the innovation and effectiveness in partnership working for carers, for which Torbay has been recognised nationally.
- 1.2 Measure Up will provide the basis for strategic planning and partnership working between statutory, voluntary and carers organisations, to develop support services for unpaid carers in Torbay. Delivering the outcomes that carers need, to support them in both their caring role and in maintaining their own health and well being, requires an Action Plan with clear targets, timescales and responsibilities. The strategy proposes maintaining those services which have been shown to be effective and developing new arrangements that address gaps in provision. Building an evidence base for what works is an essential requirement, which must include value for money.
- 1.3 The model of effective early identification and targeted support of all carers has been demonstrated as having significant benefits in terms of carers own health and well being, their ability to provide care, and in maintaining the independence of vulnerable people in the community. Unpaid carers are central to care in the community and transforming services.
- 1.4 Involvement of carers in developing these proposals has been an on-going process, through service evaluation, development work, monitoring mechanisms and feedback. Carers will be directly involved in monitoring achievement of the 'Measure Up' 2012 – 14 Action Plan, which will be subject of annual review.

#### **2. Relationship to Community Plan**

- 2.1 The 'Measure Up' strategy directly supports a number of the aims of Torbay's Community Plan, particularly the principle of focussing on prevention and early intervention, recognising carers as an excluded group in terms of their own health and well being, and by building on the strength of families and local communities. Providing advice and support to all carers, including self-funders, and partnerships with the independent and voluntary sector are ways of developing 'community capacity'. Attention to carers own health and well being has been shown to directly impact on the stability of care at home

2.2 Some elements of 'Measure Up' focus on equity and targeting 'hard to reach' groups for specific development e.g. in mental health and substance misuse. Reaching 'hidden carers,' improves access to services and reduction in crisis intervention. Measure Up 2012 – 14 will also give attention to key points in the carers 'pathway' (e.g. hospital discharge), to improve carers experience and access to support. Specific action is proposed to work with carers in the most deprived wards in Torbay

### **3. Recommendation for decision**

3.1 'Measure Up' provides the inter-agency framework for development of services to support unpaid carers in Torbay and a mechanism for commissioners, staff and carers to monitor progress. The 'Measure Up 2012 – 14', including the Action Plan, be endorsed by the Shadow Health and wellbeing Board with a view to publication in April 2012.

3.2 That a review of progress against the specific targets in the 'Measure Up' Action Plan be given to the Board on an annual basis.

Contact Officer: James Drummond  
Representing: Lead Officer Integrated Carers Services  
Telephone no. 01803 219783