

Issue for consideration of Priorities Panel

For official use only:

Issue ID Number: **020**

Date received by Operational Director

03/11/2009

Date to Priorities Panel

26/11/2009

Office use:

Name:

(JJ, RA, KT, All)

Date completed and initials:

Date of referral to LINK	03/09/2009
Date issue arose	03/09/2009
Title (Headline/short title of issue)	Failure of NHS WK to allocate the funding it has been given to provide carers with short breaks for its intended purpose
Nature of interest/standing of person in relation to issue:	
Recipient of service <input type="checkbox"/> Family <input type="checkbox"/> Friend <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate / Campaigner X Other <input type="checkbox"/>	
If other, please state what their standing is in relation to the issue:	
Is the person raising the issue a:	
LINK participant?	X
Member of the public?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Priorities Panel Member?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Governor Group Member	<input type="checkbox"/>
LINK Development Worker	<input type="checkbox"/>
Part of an organisation	X
LINK Authorised Visitor	<input type="checkbox"/>

<p style="text-align: center;">LINK Authorised Representative <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p style="text-align: center;">KMN other <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
If raising issue on behalf of an organisation, state name and brief details of what they do	Barbara Hagan on behalf of organisations working to support carers in West Kent [full list of names / organisations supplied]
Summarise issue (no more than 100 words). If necessary, a more detailed account may be included below with additional pages attached if necessary	As part of the National Carers Strategy the Government gave funding to PCTs to enable them to provide carers with short breaks. This money was not ring fenced and NHS WK [along with other PCTs] failed to allocate any of the £578,852 it received for 2009 / 10 for its intended purpose. Organisations supporting carers have written to Steve Phoenix, Chief Executive of NHS West Kent (NHS WK) requesting written reassurance and confirmation that the carers money for 2010 / 11 expected to be £1,157,704 will be used to provide carers breaks and not to plug shortfalls or overspend in other areas. This reassurance has not been given.
<p>Please use this space to give a detailed account of the issue to be raised with the Priorities Panel. (NB: Form will expand to accommodate additional text – other documentation can be appended, as necessary):</p> <p>Organisations which work with and support carers are acutely aware of the desperate unmet need for carers to have a break from their caring role. It is widely acknowledged that carers contribute the equivalent of a second national health service and that health and social care systems would fail without the care they freely provide. The Government in recognition of the contribution made by carers promised to provide additional support and as part of the National Carers Strategy allocated PCTs funds to provide vital short breaks. NHS WK decided that the funding given for this purpose should be used for other priorities.</p> <p>When NHS WK set their priorities for 2009 / 10 they would have already been aware that this money would be forthcoming and for what purpose, however they did not identify carers' needs as a priority. The carers' money for 2010 / 11 is a far greater sum and organisation supporting carers have lobbied to seek to ensure that when decisions about priority settings are made for 2010 / 11 carers are included.</p> <p>The following response from Steve Phoenix 'The amount and source of our</p>	

investment [in carers] will in part be quantified by the business case...but, as always will also be impacted by other competing priorities' fails to provide the reassurance and commitment to fully allocate carers money that carers and their advocates seek.

Is the issue currently under investigation, via a complaint or inquiry or being dealt with by somebody else (this includes being part of a wider campaign on the issue)?

Yes

No

If yes, give details of actions already taken including contact details of others dealing with the issue:

As mentioned WK organisations have pursued this issue directly with WK NHS and have also lobbied other key stakeholders. Nationally Carers Orgs have campaigned, there has been national press and TV coverage and questions have been asked in Parliament. There is also an e petition posted on the Downing Street website. [copies of correspondence available]

Is there a timescale / deadline / circumstance affecting this issue which may mean the LINK will have to act quickly, eg closure of a unit, change of service, a particular urgency?

Yes

No

If yes, what is that circumstance and what is the timescale by which action has to be taken?

The issue needs to be addressed prior to 2010 / 11 spending priorities being set by NHS WK.

What expectation does the person raising the issue have of the LINK, ie what does that person want the LINK to do / what action does it want it to take

To seek confirmation that all of the funding intended to support carers for 2010 / 11 is used for that purpose

What would be a good outcome from the perspective of the person raising the issue?

A commitment from NHS WK to allocate all of the money it is given for 2010 / 11 to provide carers with both planned and emergency short breaks.

What evidence does the person raising the issue have to support the case they are putting for the LINK to take action? List or attach evidence and sources, if available.

Please refer to copies of correspondence already sent.

Please also see 'Concern over missing money' Carers UK 7 August 2009.

How widely does this issue affect other people?

- There are 59,720 carers in West Kent
- Around 11,944 will be providing more than 50 hours per week care
- 21% of those providing more than 50 hours per week care will be in poor health themselves compared to 11% of the general population

(Sources 2001 census, General Household Survey, Carers UK and Kent Carers Strategy)

In what ways are other people affected by this issue?

Due to the lack of sort term breaks (both planned and emergency) many carers fail to look after their own health and wellbeing – supporters of carers can confirm all of the following frequently occur:

- Postponement of and failure to attend dental appointments, GP appointments, out patient and in patient treatment
- Inability to take exercise or engage in outdoor activities
- Social isolation, low mood, stress related illness

Signed: Elayne Oxley (LDW for West Kent)

Date: 3 November 2009

Your LINK for improving health and social care

www.thekentlink.co.uk

ID 020: Allocation of PCT funding for carers



a LOCAL INVOLVEMENT NETWORK

No	Recommended action	Tick	If additional information required, please specify	Additional comments, if any
1.	No further action			
2.	Watching brief			
3.	Letter to trust / social care calling for comment before taking any further			
4.	Urgent action as issue concerns patient / client safety			
5.	Further information required, please specify			
6.	Consult / survey participants to check level of interest / concern before proceeding to any other action			
7.	Start discussion on LINK website / through LINK Bulletin			
8.	Question to Citizen Jury			
9.	Topic for local meeting			
10.	Urgent unscheduled visit – specify purpose of visit in comments column			
11.	Refer to regulator, eg Care Quality Commission, Ofsted, Health and Safety Executive, Royal Colleges, etc –please specify			
12.	Potential to develop as possible LINK project			
13.	Any other recommended actions			