Carers Needs Assessment

Warwickshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2015

Emma Adams / Kate Rushall





Background

Carers (both young and adult carers) are one of the 11 priority topics of the JSNA's 3 year programme of work:



The purpose....

- To inform development of Warwickshire's Joint Carers Strategy
- To inform the re-commissioning of Warwickshire Carers Support Services
- To provide an up-to-date evidence base on the picture of unpaid care provision across Warwickshire



Current numbers of carers

2011 Census provides a valuable update of the picture of unpaid care across Warwickshire

In Warwickshire, **59,240** people or 11% of the population are unpaid carers



Around one in five of these carers provide over fifty hours of care each week

Women are more likely to be unpaid carers than men





Who's Caring for Who in Warwickshire?

Applying proportions to Census figures, it's estimated that:

- **30,000** Warwickshire carers care for someone aged over 75 years
- 4,700 Warwickshire carers care for someone under the age of 16 years
- Nearly 20,000 carers in Warwickshire are caring for their parent and just under 8,000 are caring for their child
- **34,000** carers in Warwickshire are caring for someone with a physical disability
- Over 6,500 carers in Warwickshire caring for someone with a learning disability
- Just under 6,000 carers in Warwickshire are caring for someone with dementia
- Over 7,700 carers in Warwickshire care for someone with a mental health disorder
- Just under **2,500** people in Warwickshire care for someone with a terminal illness



Age of carers and gender gap in care provision

- Women are much more likely than men to provide unpaid care:
 - 58% of provision provided by women
 - 42% of provision provided by men
- Provision is highest for (women aged **50-64** years
- One in four women in this age group provides some level of unpaid care





Deteriorating Health with rising levels of care

Clear relationship between poor health and caring that increases hours of care

Just over **12%** of carers in Warwickshire who provide 50 or more hours of care a week state that their health is either 'bad or very bad' compared to 4.6% among those who provide no care and 4% of other carers.

National evidence suggests that a significant number of hospital admissions are due to **problems associated with the carer**. Nationally, problems associated with the carer contributed to readmission in 62% of cases.

20% of over 75 year olds those needing care were admitted to hospital because of the breakdown of a single carer on whom the person was dependent.





Hidden Carers

Hidden in the numbers

Gap between GP patients numbers and 2011 Census

- 108,000 patients in Warwickshire with caring responsibilities according to GP register data in 2013/14
- Nearly twice as many carers as identified in the 2011 Census





Hidden carers

Hidden from view

Some thoughts from carers in our recent engagement week:

"I do not automatically think 'I am a carer'; in the first instance I am a wife".

"Perhaps the word caregiver should be used instead".

"The GP is best placed to help identify. GPs are a constant point of contact and could help us plan for the future".

"The GP should be recording who the carer is and their contact details as a requirement and asking if they can pass on and share data given".

"My mother's care plan (after assessment) identified me as the primary carer, but nobody had a conversation with me about it".

"Links with doctor's surgeries and hospital is vital".

- Do not access formal services as a result; this is identified as a particular problem with black and minority ethnic (BME) carers
- Identifying these hidden carers is essential in to assess the full extent of unpaid care across Warwickshire that is currently hidden from view.



Young Carers

Just over 3,500 children & young people (0-24 years) providing some unpaid care

Almost 400 young people reporting caring for more than 50 hours per week

Carers in this age category are **twice** as likely to report that their health is 'not good' compared with their peers who provide no care.

Young carers who care for **50** hours or more are **five** times more likely to report their health as 'not good' compared to those of the same age providing no care.



...high levels
 of unpaid care
 have a greater
 adverse effect
 on the health
 of young
 people



Deprivation



Positive relationship between those providing more care in the more deprived areas of the county i.e. those areas that are relatively more deprived are more likely to have more residents providing 50 or more hours of care per week.



What carers told us about services

"Carers need to know what they don't know. Carers tend not to know who or how to contact and what support is available and when".

"There is good help out there but how to know how to access it is the problem".

"More information regarding what support is available and where to go for help".

"More publicity is needed in a variety of ways to reach carers of different ages and at different stages of their caring journey".

'Respite care at a centre or preferably in own home would enable carers who cannot easily go out on their own to do so. A known specialist agency who could provide such care either privately or via the system of financial support would be a bonus'.

"No clear info regarding what you are entitled to".

"Understanding of support through community organisations and what is available".

"On what other support there is for them".

"On financial support (attendance allowance and carers' allowance)".

"Are information workers for carers in general a possibility?"

"Could there be an ombudsman/champion for carers?"



Future Numbers & the Care 'Gap'

Over next 20 years, the number of people aged over 85 is expected to double

Number of carers could increase by 40% by 2037

Older people in need of care is predicted to outstrip the number of family members able to provide it for the first time in **2017**

The number of carers is estimated to increase by just under 5,000 people by 2021 to 64,115 carers with the majority of these aged 65 years and over (3,930).





More information





- For further information please contact: Warwickshire's JSNA Team: jsna@warwickshire.gov.uk
- Needs assessments are published on Warwickshire's JSNA website:

http://hwb.warwickshire.gov.uk/jsna-needs-assessments/

