**Agenda Carers Panel 1.8.24**

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| Gemma | Apologies from JM, HF, KH, LS  Attendees: JH, DB, DB, AB, JA, RG, KG, PL, MS  Updates:   * **Hospital Link Worker**   Rowena’s work will focus on identifying supporting and signposting unpaid carers in a ward setting at East Lothian Community Hospital in Haddington, ensuring carers are well placed to act as equal partners in care. In particular, Rowena will be supporting carers to become more involved in planning for the future for people they care for, ensuring the carers are aware how to access support once patients are discharged into the community.   * **Men Who Care funding**   We have been successful in securing just under £20,000 from Awards for All to support us in developing our Men Who Care project to offer therapeutic support for unpaid male carers experiencing poor mental health, loneliness, anxiety and depression.   * **Respitality Delivery Partner**   Carers of East Lothian have signed up as a Repitality Delivery Partner. But what is Respitality? It is a simple, yet powerful, initiative which offers unpaid carers in Scotland a much-needed break, through partnerships with local hospitality, tourism and leisure businesses who are willing to donate a break free of charge. Respitality is a Scottish Government supported project delivered locally by Carers of East Lothian and coordinated nationally by Shared Care Scotland.   * **Updated Carers Eligibility Criteria policy** * Emailed a copy to members. Any questions for Maria can be directed to me. |
| All | **Information for carers via GP practice**  Members shared findings from independent visits to practices.  Group discussion on topic. Additional information was included from KH and LS who were unable to attend but wished to share their views.  Discussion surrounding this topic included the following points:   * Inconsistency across practices (leaflets visible at some, not at others) * Good information is available, but the main issue is identifying carers who need the information * Are carers routinely identified by practices? Is this information stored/ recorded anywhere? * What if carer and person cared for attend different surgeries? * 1 member accessed support via NB Surgery with CoEL but this service no longer exists. Member found this helpful and supportive. GT explained that most of this is now delivered over the telephone. * Carers champion at GP practices. * ID card scheme could aid GP practices in knowing who carers are and who to signpost.   2 members had requested 1:1 meeting with practice manager. Members agreed to feedback to the group about outcome of these discussions and decide on steps forward following this discussion. |
| Gemma | **Plan for September panel meeting**  Engaging with carers on what their local carers organisation can offer, this is to inform the service spec for the tender process which will guide the contract from June 2025.  Conversation will focus on:  what are the most important aspects of the service  what are the gaps  what difference support makes  Members requested additional meeting to prep for meeting on 12.9. Requested papers inc accouns, annual report. Meeting scheduled online for 22.8.  **Request for feedback on the Life After Caring section of the website – organised via email following the meeting. PL and KH agreed to give feedback.** |