Carer Involvement at Cheswold Park Hospital
Anti-oppressive practice is a significant issue in a Secure environment. The ability to balance an individual’s rights with risk issues is a fundamental part of anti-oppressive practice in the hospital. Patient/carer involvement is key.
Carers

“Detention of the patient in a secure environment, often at some distance from their home, can make it difficult for carers to maintain contact with their relative or friend and may contribute to the further disintegration of the family unit”

(Canning et al, 2009)

- Lack of knowledge about secure services
- Lack of involvement in care
Carer’s Need

‘Where patients are resident in secure mental health services, carers may need support, especially if they have been victims of the family member, or if the family member is located at a distance from the home.’

(Department of Health, 1999)
More than good practice!

- CCQI – Quality Network Standards
- National Service Framework – Standard 6
- National Strategy for Carers DoH 1999
- Legislation:
  - Mental Health Act, 1983 – Nearest Relative
  - Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004
Legislation

Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995
- Formal recognition
- Right to an assessment when person caring for has assessment.

Carers & Disabled Children Act 2000
- Assessment in own right
- Irrespective of whether the person they are caring for has services
- Carer - provides or is intending to provide regular and substantial care
Legislation

- Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004
  Duty of Social Services to inform carers of their right to an assessment
  Consider needs; work, education, leisure pursuits.
  Social Services can ask other public bodies including local health organizations to provide services to carers.
Nearest Relative

- Legal term defined in Mental Health Act 1983
- Different to Next of Kin

- Husband, wife or civil partner (including a person with whom the patient has been living as for not less than six months);
- Son or daughter;
- Father or mother;
- Brother or sister;
- Grandparent;
- Grandchild;
- Uncle or aunt;
Nearest Relative

- Right to information about detention in hospital and discharge from hospital.
- The nearest relative must be given the opportunity to become involved in any planning of the patient’s care and services for after she or he leaves hospital.
- Power to discharge her or his relative from detention under section 2 or section 3.
- Consent - unless the patient objects
  - The Mental Health Act, 1983
Social Work

- 4 Social Workers at Cheswold Park Hospital
- Named contact for carer
- Home visit
- Social Circumstances Reports – HMM/MHT
- Maintain contact with family/Nearest Rel.
- Advocate for carer’s views in Ward Round, CPA
- Support
- Signpost / Carer Assessment
Carer Handbook

- Information about Cheswold Park Hospital
- Pictures of the Hospital
- Maps/Directions
- Visiting info
- MDT names and contact details
- CPA/HMM/MHT
- Support / Signposting
Carer Events

Aim - improve knowledge about our service and increase carer involvement in care.

Provide transparency while balancing the privacy of patients within the hospital.
Carers Day Agenda

- Patient representatives
- Psychology, Occupational Therapy, Nursing
- Doctor - diagnosis, medication
- Carer’s rights
- Advocacy.
- Unstructured time for carers to talk
Hospital Tour

- Grounds – pond area, football pitch, horticulture
- Facilities - gym, sports hall, group therapy room, meeting rooms, OT kitchens
- Ward - lounge, dinning room, bedroom
- Break down any misconceptions about secure hospitals
- Picture their loved ones in the environment when they were discussing their days
Christmas Meal

- Patients and families/friends
- Restaurant experience
- Prioritise patients who do not have S17
- Encourage others to celebrate during S17

- Trial run – aim to repeat regularly
Carers Experiences

“More carer involvement would seemingly be more beneficial in services acclimatising themselves with patients more rapidly and may have a beneficial impact on the speed at which people progress through services. This could be achieved through more education for carers and service users about mental health issues and clarity on what is needed to be done in order for a person to progress through services towards discharge and more training for service staff around carer engagement.”

Centre for Mental Health, 2011
Sharing the Caring

- Involving Carers in the treatment pathway from the day of admission.
- Respecting the views and opinions of carers and including their views in risk assessment, CPA, HMM and intervention planning
- Sharing successes with carers
- Building positive and respectful relationships with carers and members of staff
- Providing support for carers
Involving Carers

- Invites to CPA, HMM, MHRT meetings, carers also have the opportunity to meet with the Patients’ RC, Social Worker, Named Nurse.
- Using information provided by carers as part of the planning of the treatment pathway
- Informing carers of changes, progress and difficulties along the treatment pathway
Respecting Views

- We recognise that our Patient’s carers are family and friends and that if anyone knows these people it will be family and friends.
- Our nursing staff work with carers to ensure that their views are listened to and where possible acted upon.
- Our Social workers will keep in touch regularly to ensure that all views are documented and included in important reports.
Sharing Success

- Being detained in a secure hospital is not all about the things that go wrong but more importantly about our Patients' successes.
- Patient achievement is recognised by Cheswold Park Hospital and feedback to carers is something that makes us feel good.
Positive Relationships

- Choosing appropriate escorts for home visits
- Fostering the relationships developed between staff members and carers
- Caring about our carers like we do our Patients
- Inviting our carers to share our experiences and showcase when our Patients use their strengths
Providing Support

- 24 hour support can be accessed through our nursing teams
- Social Workers provide support for carers and will work with community services to ensure that Carers receive appropriate assessment
- Being transparent and listening – our carers wanted to see the hospital so we let them!!!