Carers' Challenge 2011 – Evaluation Report Summary

Introduction
The key aims of the Challenge were to:
- raise the profile of carers across the city
- encourage organisations to consider the impact of their services on carers
- encourage employers to think about how they can support carers in the workplace
- enable professionals taking part the chance to learn first-hand what it is like to be a carer, allowing them to use that learning in their respective jobs and to disseminate that knowledge to colleagues

Participation
- 23 matches were arranged between adult carers and professionals. Participants included a councillor, MP, NHS, local authority and voluntary sector staff.
- One Children's Services manager attended a young carer activity during the half term break and another met up with a young carer for an hour during the Challenge.
- Four adult carers from PATCHED met with three managers for a group discussion.
- Mm

Feedback
- Delightful and an ambassador for carers everywhere.
- The manager was open and genuinely interested in my perspective and point of view. We were able to discuss some of his issues as well as mine.
- One of the most valuable things I have done this year
- Very interesting insight into things and services that carers find helpful and the challenges of understanding health and local authority service
- Very, a humbling experience from an exceptional young woman. I was amazed that someone so young, who had been caring for so many years with such poor support, could be so accepting of her caring role with absolutely no trace of bitterness at a number of services and organisations who had clearly let her down repeatedly.
- It was useful to hear feedback from a self-funding carer and how he experienced difficulties in accessing services.
- An insight into the experience of caring for someone with a mental health problem
- I learnt an awful lot about resilience, hope and courage
- We need to be more flexible and realise that people are individuals and need individual contact and help

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