



Working together for carers through changing times

Moira Fraser
Director of Policy and Research
Carers Trust
mfraser@carers.org

What is Carers Trust

- Largest carers charity in UK
- Network of over 180 local carers' organisations
- Reaching over 450,000 carers

- Working together in partnership to achieve change for carers

Time of massive change for carers

“Change is inevitable - except from a vending machine.”

- **Robert C Gallagher**

Change in...

- Finances – benefits, income and costs
- Services and support for carers
- Law for carers and people receiving care
- And for Carers Trust!

Finances

Money is tight for carers.

Changes to benefits have meant reduction in income for many, bedroom tax etc.

Carers Allowance is still inadequate and has many flaws.

Many carers struggling to stay in work, or to get back into work.

What are we doing together?

- Working together with our colleagues at Carers UK, supporting campaigning against bedroom tax and benefit cuts , and for review of Carers Allowance
- Supporting Hardest Hit campaign and Who Benefits? campaign
- Met with DWP 3 times about Carers Allowance
- Highlighting impact of issues through research – eg older carers, young adult carers
- We'll share this info with you as it progresses.

Services and support

- Local authority funding tight and reducing - reductions in services across the board
- Changes to the ways services are funded and structured
- Many carers services fighting to maintain their funding

What are we doing together?

- Raising issue with Government – NHS, local authorities and others must recognise need to support carers.
- Supporting local carers services to navigate new systems and keep their funding
- Providing support to carers on understanding new systems eg personal budgets.
- Finding out what carers think good should look like - carers assessments, care workers etc.

Changing the law for carers

- Current law is confusing and complex
- Carers not eligible for assessment unless providing “regular and substantial” care
- Also change needed for people with care needs – cap on care costs etc

What are we doing together?

- Successfully made the case that change is needed
- Proposals generally positive – Care Bill. Should widen the group of carers who can get an assessment of their own needs and a support plan
- Proposals missed out young carers
- Successfully lobbied to have this changed – expect to see amendment to the Bill in the autumn.

There has been some progress but there is still a long way to go.

- For all the progress, it is one step forward and two steps back
- Carers still struggle desperately with money, with lack of information or support, and often with poor health.
- Carers Trust, through partners across the UK , reaches 450,000 carers.
- We believe there are 7 million in total.
- That means 6.5 million we don't yet reach.
- Not everyone wants to be identified now, but it's important they know that there is support there if they need it.

How can we reach and support more carers?

- We can only reach more carers if we work together – locally and nationally
- Get the media to tell the story of carers, so that it is more widely recognised
- Ensure caring is seen as valued – by health professionals, by society, by carers themselves
- Ensure people know that there is support there if they come forward.
- Work locally to ensure that in every area across the UK, carers can get the support they need.

This is a big job

- We can all play our part in making carers count whether it's nationally or locally
- Whether it's supporting one person to realise they are a carer, persuading one GP to identify carers, or one teacher to support young carers, or one local authority to improve support for carers, or whether it's persuading ministers.
- Carers are key. Your voice matters.
- Let's do it together.

Thank you

Moira Fraser, Carers Trust
mfraser@carers.org

Follow us on twitter
@CarersTweets



Like us on Facebook



Carers Trust is a registered charity in England and Wales (1145181) and in Scotland (SC042870). Registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No. 7697170. Registered office: 32–36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH.

© Carers Trust

www.carers.org
www.youngcarers.net