

12 November 2013

Dear Colleague

We are writing to you to let you know how Carers UK and Carers Trust are working together with and for carers, as many people have asked us individually for updates, and to provide information about the complementary work of the two charities. This letter also gives you an update on some key areas of work.

The two charities share a common cause and are committed to working together on issues where it is needed to give a stronger voice, as well as respecting each other's expertise and leadership in other areas. To facilitate this we meet every three months to keep each other up-to-date with plans and developments and to discuss common issues of concern or interest. Recently this has included discussion of the impact of the changes and cuts in welfare benefits on carers, and the changes in health and social care.

We believe that the work of our two charities is complementary, and we are committed to making best use of our resources to further the carers' cause. With the number of carers rising and projected to reach 9 million by 2037, we know how crucial our work is.

We aim to avoid duplicating each other's work, and instead have reached an understanding about which organisation is best placed to lead on which issues. For example Carers UK leads on employment, and on welfare benefits, and Carers Trust leads on young and young adult carers issues, health care commissioning and models of best health care commissioning practice.

We also have a number of partnerships in place:

Together we are partners in the Department of Health Strategic Partners Programme. This involves us working together on health and social care policy issues, and consulting with, and disseminating information to, our different networks.

We also work together on a Department of Health funded programme, with the Royal College of GPs, which aims to improve how GPs identify and support carers.

### Carers UK

Carers UK is a membership charity, with around 17,000 carers in membership, as well as 442 organisations affiliated to us. We have just over 30 branches, most of which are in England and Wales, which provide support to carers locally. We provide information, advice and emotional support, through our website, online forum, and telephone advice service. Our research, policy and campaigning includes work on the Welfare Reform Act and its implications for carers, employment, the financial aspects of caring, social care, and the

role of technology in caring. We run Employers for Carers, a network of over 70 companies who together reach 1 million people, and Carers Week (working with the Carers Week partners including Carers Trust) and Carers Rights Day.

### Carers Trust

Carers Trust was formed by the merger of The Princess Royal Trust for Carers and Crossroads Care (England and Wales) in April 2012. Carers Trust supports 183 local independent charities (referred to as Network Partners) across the United Kingdom plus the Isle of Man, which all work to provide practical support and services for carers and the people they care for, such as breaks, information and advice, education, training and employment opportunities. 101 Network Partners provide various forms of support to young carers and young adult carers.

The Network Partners benefit from the provision of grants, advice documents and reports to improve carers' services. Carers Trust gives carers, and young carers and young adult carers avenues to make their voices heard, offline via our carers' services and young carers' schemes and online via our interactive websites. Carers Trust also undertakes in-depth research into areas affecting service provision, for example in September 2013 a report was published ('A Road Less Rocky') highlighting that carers of people with dementia are not getting the support and advice they often desperately need.

Both charities know that there is some very good liaison and joint working at a local level and we are similarly keen to work together positively at a UK level and in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. We also know that from time to time issues or problems can arise, and we are committed to being open with each other about these and working constructively to resolve them.

We are sending this letter to our members and networks, and from time to time will write again to let you know how we are working together. In the meantime if you would like to get in touch our contact details are below.

With best wishes



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