



Carers 4 Carers

Finding support through supporting each other
September 2015

Welcome to our newsletter. September is the time when the country as a whole returns to a 'normal' routine after a time for refreshment and renewal and thousands of children and young people move on to fresh experiences as they progress through to the next stage of their education. For many carers, there will have been no holiday or break, just a continuation of selfless caring at a time when services are less and family and friends are probably away so unable to support.

It was quite refreshing, then to be approached by two different County Council departments during August who wanted first-hand information from carers. Emma is involved with a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment with a view to influencing health, well-being and social care services. She was seeking carer input on the impact of caring on social isolation and loneliness.

In February 2016 the contract for Carer Support Services runs out and new contracts must be arranged. Claire Hall is working on a review and redesign of carer support services in the county in preparation for this. Claire is anxious to talk to as many carers as she can during this process and has asked to meet our members. Details of the meeting I have set up for this purpose are overleaf. Please come if you possibly can.

OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Carers4Carers' monthly meetings take place on the **fourth** Friday of the month at the Kineton Village Hall, Mill Street, Kineton, CV35 OLB between 10.30 and 12 noon. We always start with time for coffee and chat and then, if a speaker or workshop is scheduled, this will usually begin at about 11 o'clock. Come when you can and stay for as long as you are able.

Friday 25th September—Jude from Adult Social Care in the Stratford area will outline the services and support carers can expect and also inform on the new Care Act that

came into force in April this year.

Friday 23rd October—no speaker for this meeting so a chance to chat and relax over tea or coffee, browse our library of information leaflets and enjoy one of Anita's relaxing massages.

Friday 27th November—Steven Watkins from Warwickshire Welfare Rights Advice Service will talk about benefits that apply to both carers and the cared-for. This will also be our third birthday, so there will be CAKE!

Friday 11th December—seasonal meeting with refreshments, music and relaxation.

Carers 4 Carers is one of a network of Omega Care for Life Meeting Point Support Groups

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IMPORTANT MEETING—HAVE YOUR SAY ON CARER SUPPORT

This is the meeting referred to overleaf.

The contract for provision of carer support in the county, currently held by Guideposts Trust, expires early next year and so must go to tender. With this in mind and the improvement in carers' rights and additional duties required of the local authority resulting from the new Care Act, the Warwickshire Care Strategy is being refreshed. This is being done in part by engaging with carers to discover their experiences, what is being done well and what could be improved.

The meeting will focus on three themes:

- The support that is offered
- Carer pathways— how we can identify carers and support them
- Carers' Assessment—the experience.

The good news is that Carers have now moved well up the priority list and there are no plans to cut funding. This is a golden opportunity for you to have an input into the planning for future Carer Support. If you are able to come to the meeting, please let me know and I will forward a short document outlining the content of the meeting. The County Council has agreed to cover the cost of running our Companionship Group on this occasion and so you are welcome to bring along your loved one and they will be well looked after by a qualified care assistant.

If you are unable to attend but would like to contribute, do let me have your comments and I will pass them on.

Please note, the meeting is at the Methodist Church Hall, **not** the usual Village Hall.



**COME AND HAVE YOUR SAY
ABOUT CARER SUPPORT IN
WARWICKSHIRE**

Thursday 17th September
10.30 for about an hour
at
KINETON METHODIST CHURCH HALL
.....
COMPANIONSHIP GROUP

You are welcome to bring the person
you care for

FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT FOR CARE

If the person you care for receives visits from a care agency carer then you may have needed to have a financial assessment. That assessment should be done on the income and savings of the person receiving the care only, not the joint income and savings of cared-for and spouse. If you have had an assessment and this was done on the finances of both carer and cared-for, sending you over the threshold for free care, then you need to ask to be re-assessed.

Further help or advice can be obtained from specialists Moore & Tibbits on 01926 491181. A longer article on this appears in the recent Guideposts Newsletter at www.guidepoststrust.org.uk/warwickshire/files/2015/07/Newsletter-July-September-2015.pdf or contact them on 02476 385 888 and request a copy.