



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

Nottinghamshire Carer Newsletter for Carers in Nottinghamshire

First Edition

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Welcome

Welcome to this first edition of the *Nottinghamshire Carer, the newsletter for carers in Nottinghamshire*. This newsletter is part of the Nottinghamshire Social Services' plan to communicate with carers living in or providing unpaid care in the county. The Nottinghamshire Carer will bring you information about your rights and the services available to you. We are glad to receive your views and contributions for the newsletter.



83,000 carers provide care in Nottinghamshire

The most recent census figures show that there are more than 83,000 carers in Nottinghamshire. These are people who are caring for a relative or friend who is frail because of age, or for someone who has a disability. One in three of these carers is caring for more than 20 hours a week. This means that they are carers with regular and substantial commitments. These carers may be entitled to an assessment of their support needs and may be eligible for services to help carers to have breaks through provision of services to the person they care for. Services which are currently available are described in the Caring Together Bulletin which is available on request from the Partnership Unit, (Carers), (contact details on back page).



CONNECT - COUNTY CARER CONTACT LIST

One of the principal objectives of The Carers Plan for Nottinghamshire is to identify carers in the county, in order to recognise them as partners. "Connect" is central to this process.

Connect is, essentially, a mailing list which carers can choose to be put on. It enables Nottinghamshire Social Services to get a clearer idea of the number of carers in Nottinghamshire. It also allows Social Services to send out information to carers, to hear carers' opinions and to involve them in consultation and planning for future services.

Census information on the number of carers in the county makes it quite clear that there are thousands of carers in the county who are not receiving services from social services or from voluntary agencies or charities.

Connect is an important medium for communication which allows Social Services to provide information to carers, and carers to stay in touch with Social Services. Connect is one way in which "carers who have not had services to date may become aware of their rights and be put in touch with service providers".

Through Connect, Social Services can keep carers up to date with policy changes. As Di Oxley adds: "carers rights have changed and it is important that all carers who are eligible for support, whether financial or in the form of services, are aware of those rights and are able to make use of the services being developed for them. It is also hoped that carers will have a say in the future development of services. In order for carers to influence the services which are developed, they need to have a voice in the corridors where decisions are made on spending. We hope that some carers will want to take part in occasional consultation exercises."

Inclusion on Connect is voluntary and completely confidential. It is open to carers who live in Nottinghamshire and / or care for someone who lives in Nottinghamshire. If you would like to be placed on the Connect mailing list, please complete the application slip below or contact Di Oxley, Partnership Officer for Carers, 3 Church Street, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 8FD, tel: 0115 9671063, email: di.oxley@nottscc.gov.uk . All carers on Connect will receive newsletters, information, and the Caring Together bulletin informing you about rights, breaks and other services.

CONNECT Application

Please send me an application for the *Connect Carers Contact List*

Name:

Address:

..... postcode:.....

Please send application to : CONNECT,
Partnership Unit, 3 Church Street, Arnold, Nottingham NG5 8FD

COUNTY EMERGENCY CARD FOR CARERS

This Carers Card scheme provides practical back up for carers. Carrying a Carers Card identifies you as a carer, so that in case of emergency, care may be provided on your behalf. You yourself may also call for assistance if you are going to be severely delayed in getting to the person you care for.

When you apply for the scheme, you will be asked to give detailed information about the person you care for, as well as a set of care instructions. You will then be assigned a unique identification number. This number is shown on your card, along with an emergency contact telephone number for a response centre linked to appropriate care providers. Should someone call this number and give your carer's ID number, the care instructions you provided will be followed and help will be given to the person you care for. He or she may also carry a card with a corresponding identification number.

All details provided are treated in the strictest confidence and will only be used in an emergency. No personal details of either the carer or the cared for are shown on the card.

You may update your care instructions at any time by calling the response centre. Phone lines are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Similar schemes have proved a success in other counties, and Nottinghamshire Social Services looks forward to receiving your application. You may complete the form included with this newsletter, or call Di Oxley, Partnership Officer, Carers, on 0115 9671063 and ask for an application form. You may also contact her if you have any problems in completing the form. The Carers Card scheme is part of Nottinghamshire Social Services plan to provide more support and care for carers.



Application for County Emergency Card for Carers

I would like an application for a County Emergency Card for Carers.

Name:

Address:

..... postcode:.....

Telephone number

Please return to: Partnership Unit (Carers),
3 Church Street, Arnold, Nottingham NG5 8FD.

Dear Carer,

The Nottinghamshire Carer

This first edition of the Nottinghamshire Carer newsletter describes some of the services for carers in Nottinghamshire other than breaks services – they are described in the Caring Together Bulletin. You will receive a copy of the bulletin if you apply to be on the Connect List (application inside this newsletter). Another way of finding out about services is on our website at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk.

The next edition of this newsletter is already in preparation. Future editions will include information about the Carers Allowance, carer support in primary health care, and information about support available from other organisations in Nottinghamshire. Perhaps in the not too distant future we will have an editorial group consisting of carers!

Do contact us and tell us what you think of these new initiatives for carers. If an answering machine greets you Fiona or I will get back to you if you leave your number.

Best wishes,
Di Oxley,
Partnerships Officer Carers.

Nottinghamshire County Council
Social Services Department

'Making a difference to people's lives'



Contacting us

email di.oxley@nottsc.gov.uk
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fax **0115 967 4410**
post **Partnership Unit (Carers), 3 Church Street, Arnold
Nottingham NG5 8FD**
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