

# Fact sheet

Access team

September 2013

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## Could you be a Local Carers Champion?

### Background

In Telford and Wrekin it is estimated that there are over 17,000 people over the age of 5 who provide unpaid care to others. Locally we want to raise the profile of carer awareness and increase peoples understanding of what carers champions are and how they could benefit your organisation/group/service.

Carers come in all shapes, sizes and ages, including young carers. Carers are mainly women aged between 45 and 64 and are looking after someone who is aged 75 years or older, although more men are identifying themselves as carers. With so many people not recognising they are a carer getting the message across is important. This message is endorsed within the Carers Strategy 2013 -2016: Making connections for Carers in Telford and Wrekin.

### What are Carers Champions?

Champions have an interest and commitment to improving support, help and advice offered to carers. This role is undertaken in a voluntary capacity and provides the following:

- Identifying people who are carers through raising the profile
- Signposting people for further information provided by the Carers Centre

### Where can Carers Champions be found?

- Patient Participation Groups linked to general practices
- Voluntary Organisations
- Local business/workplace
- Church and faith groups,
- Local communities

### What does this informal role involve?

- A first point of contact for information distribution
- Someone to promote what is available for Carers
- Share Carers news in the workplace, perhaps on a web site/newsletter/notice board
- A central point for receiving carer related information.

*Continued overleaf*

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## How do organisations benefit from having a Carers Champion?

- Opportunity to become a carer friendly organisation
- Access to free carer awareness training for staff
- Be aware of the range of support locally available.

We are working towards organisations/services and groups receiving 'carer friendly' recognition awards. If you are interested in knowing more please contact Carers Commissioning Officer on **01952 388918**

## How does my organisation get involved in having a Carers Champion?

To find out more information contact

- Carers Centre on **01952 262066**
- Email **carerschampion@hotmail.com**
- Website: **www.carerscontact.org.uk**

We look forward to working alongside you to identify and support unpaid family Carers in Telford and Wrekin.



Text relay



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