

The Leeds Carers Partnership



**Introducing the Leeds Commitment to Carers:
“Making Leeds the best city for carers”
2017 - 2020**

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Foreword

Leeds has a bold ambition to be the best city for health and wellbeing in the UK. Unpaid carers are crucial both to our communities and to the sustainability of health and social care in Leeds. If we are to be the best city for health and well-being, we need to be the best city for carers!

That means being the best at identifying carers, the best at recognising and valuing the contribution that carers make, the best at promoting carers own health and well-being and the best at supporting working carers.

As co-chairs of the Leeds Carers Partnership Group we positively support the Leeds Commitment to Carers and recognise that we all have our part to play. By taking action to demonstrate your own commitment you are taking a positive step in making Leeds the best city for carers.



Diane Boyne
Community Commissioning Lead
South East Leeds CCG

James Woodhead
Head of Commissioning
Adult Social Care



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Background information



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Who is a carer?

A carer is a person of any age who helps to look after a relative, neighbour or friend who could not manage without their help because of physical or mental ill-health, disability, sensory impairment or substance misuse.

There are around 6 million carers in the UK. Around 2 million people move in and out of caring every year

The support that carers provide is unpaid – they should not be confused with paid care workers!

“Carers provide the bulk of care in our country. Three in five of us will become carers at some point in our lives. Without carers our NHS and social services would be overwhelmed. But many carers pay a heavy price for their caring role in both their health and their wealth.”

Rt Hon Paul Burstow, Care Act for Carers – One Year On (Carers Trust: July 2016)

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What do carers do?

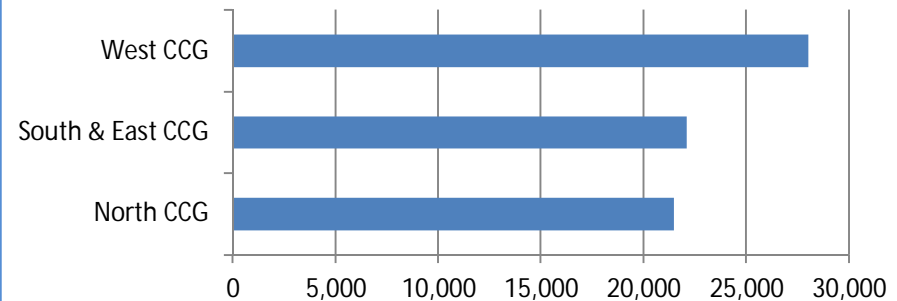
- Each caring situation is different and is influenced by factors relating to the cared-for person as well as the carer
- Carers are likely to perform domestic tasks such as shopping, managing finances, cleaning, washing, ironing etc
- Carers are also likely to perform personal care and nursing tasks such as giving medication, changing dressings, helping with mobility, dressing and toileting
- Some carers may perform fewer physical tasks but provide a great deal of emotional support, especially if the person they care for has mental health or dementia
- Carers often have to deal with emergencies which rarely happen at convenient times!

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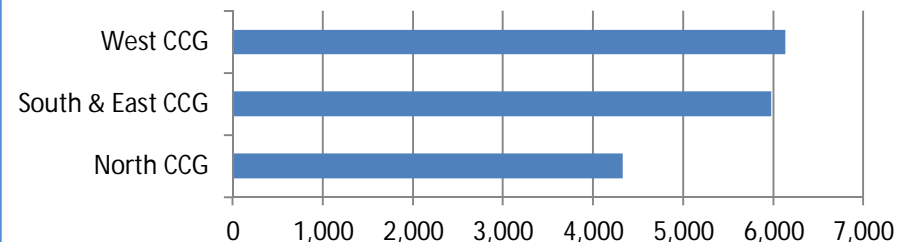
Carers in Leeds: facts and figures

- There are around 74,000 unpaid carers in Leeds
- The cost of replacing the care that unpaid carers provide in Leeds is estimated to be around £1.4billion
- 23% of carers in Leeds are caring for more than 50 hours per week
- 75% of carers in Leeds are of working age

Total Number of Carers



Number of Carers who are Caring for 50+ Hrs per Week



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Impact of caring on health and wellbeing

There is plenty of evidence to suggest that carers often experience negative health, social and financial consequences as a result of caring, for example:

40% of carers experience significant distress and depression

The more care you provide the more likely you are to report bad or very bad health

A survey suggested that 20% of carers reported back injury as a result of caring

Just 40% of carers in Leeds say they have as much social contact as they would like

Providing higher levels of care is associated with a 23% higher risk of stroke

For 1 in 5 young carers, caring has a negative impact on their education

65% of carers who are struggling to make ends meet cut back on seeing family and friends to cope

73% of carers say that worrying about their finances is affecting their health

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Why supporting carers is important

Issue	Why its important to support carers
Moral	"it's the right thing to do!"
Policy and legislation	"we have a duty to"
Economic	"we can't afford not to"
Demand management	"if we don't, the system will collapse"
Prevention & wellbeing	"to prevent, reduce or delay the impact of ill-health and disability and to support self-care"

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The Leeds Carers Partnership

- **The Leeds Carers Partnership champions the needs of carers and aims to influence the way that services are planned and delivered in response to the needs of carers**
- **Membership of the Leeds Carers Partnership includes carers as well as staff from the public, private and voluntary sector**
- **For more information about the Leeds Carers Partnership, or if you would like to join the Partnership, please contact:**
ian.brookemawson@leeds.gov.uk



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The Leeds Commitment to Carers



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If Leeds is the best city for carers

Carers will be supported and will say:

✓	I have access to information and advice which is easy to understand and relevant to my caring role
✓	I have support that helps me as a carer and when I need more support, care services are responsive
✓	I am listened to and I am involved in planning the care for the person I care for
✓	I am satisfied with the care and support that the person I care for receives
✓	I am satisfied with the amount of social contact I have
✓	I am able to balance my working life and caring responsibilities
✓	I get support and guidance from my school, college or university
✓	I am able to plan for if I am unable to care and I know who to contact in a crisis
✓	I feel supported when my caring role ends

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If Leeds is the best city for carers

Organisations and service providers will be able to show how they:

✓	Work in partnership with others to support carers
✓	Promote good practice in the identification and recognition of carers
✓	Involve carers in the assessment and planning of services for the person they care for and consider the impact on carers health and wellbeing in healthcare and support plans
✓	Support carers to be healthy and to make informed choices about their caring role
✓	Provide carers with relevant information and signpost/refer carers to specialist information, advice and support
✓	Support carers to access local resources
✓	Provide meaningful opportunities for carers to be involved in designing services, commissioning decisions and checking the quality of services
✓	Measure what matters to carers
✓	Are a carer-friendly employer
✓	Train and support their workforce to be 'carer aware'

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