

The value of workplace carers networks

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Supporting carers at work makes business sense

1 in 9 in your workforce will be caring for someone who is ill, frail or has a disability. In the current economic climate it is an important time to retain skilled workers rather than recruiting and retraining new staff.



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Get exclusive member benefits

Already a member? Login here

EIC launches e-learning



Working with embrace-learning, Carers UK and EIC launch new e-learning courses designed to support carers and their line managers; these courses will deliver our expertise directly to your PC/laptop, giving your employees direct access to on-line training.

Oxfordshire Employers Scheme



Employers Supporting Working Carers is a new membership hub for employers, large and small, across Oxfordshire. It is run by Oxfordshire County Council with support from EIC and Carers UK.

Resources



We produce a wide range of resources including practical guides, policy briefings, research, factsheets, toolkits and sample HR policies. Our publications can also be purchased by non-members and are available to download in the resources section for members.

Events



Our regular members' networking events give members the opportunity to share good practice and discuss any challenges or opportunities in an informal setting. Our next event will be in early Spring 2015.

Latest news

11th Nov

Flexible working: one in three employees wants to change the way they work

Only a quarter of people feel that work is central.

04th Nov

Annualised hours contracts: five key steps

Annual or annualised hours contracts can be beneficial for both...

04th Nov

TAEN/ GFTU Project conference examines better support for working carers

A final conference of an EU funded project, Negotiating Improvements

04th Nov

Two in three 55 year-olds acting as carers

Middle-aged adults are stacking under the strain of balancing caring...

04th Nov

Carers UK responds to new threshold for social care

The Government has published (on 23rd October) the statutory regulations...

21st Oct

Carers UK responds to latest CQC State of Care report

Carers UK welcomes CQC's message that it is calling time...

Employers for Carers

Employers membership forum

- Provides a **practical service** to employers seeking to develop carer friendly workplace policies and practices
- Identifies and promotes the **business benefits** of supporting carers in the workplace
- Influences employment **policy and practice** to create a culture which supports carers in and into work
- Maintains a **Leadership Group** committed to working with Government to inform policy and influence practice

Chaired by **British Gas** and supported by the specialist knowledge of **Carers UK**



8 in 10

carers have felt **lonely or socially isolated** as a result of their caring responsibilities



57%

of carers have **lost touch with friends and family** as a result of caring



38%

of carers in full-time employment have felt **isolated from other people at work** because of their caring responsibilities

How we help

The four 'P's

- **Policies**
 - Reviewing, implementing and embedding
- **Promotion**
 - Publicity and awareness raising activities
- **Practice**
 - Tips and tools for managers and employees
- **Peer support**
 - Setting up, supporting and sustaining workplace carers networks (including online)
 - EfC 'network of networks'

How networks help

- **Policies**
 - Reviewing and shaping policies
- **Promotion**
 - Raising awareness about workplace policies and external support available
- **Practice**
 - Helping to ensure that policies are better understood by carers and managers
- **Peer support**
 - Whether face to face or virtual/online
 - Across a range of caring circumstances and situations

What can networks look like?



- A **hub** of **information and support**
- A network both of **information and people**
- A signpost both to **workplace and external support**
- A source of **peer to peer** support
- **Virtual/online** and/or **face to face**
- A resource for **employees and managers**



Carers Connect



In partnership with **carersUK**
making life better for carers

- Home
- About
- Caring
- Technology
- Finances
- Legal
- Wellbeing
- Resources
- Useful links
- Forum
- FAQ

Home

Welcome to Carers Connect!

Carers Connect is a website and interactive network designed especially for LFB staff who are **carers**. It provides information, support and advice on issues related to caring.

Carers Connect has been developed by the **London Fire Brigade** in collaboration with **Carers UK** and the support of **Employers for Carers**.

Carers Connect offers an easily accessible way to find information quickly and to connect with other colleagues with caring responsibilities.

Remember this is your website! We have tried to provide information on most of the key aspects of caring, but if you have any suggestions about topics that you would also like to see included please [contact us](#).

Who is a carer?

Carers provide unpaid care by looking after an ill, frail or disabled family member, friend or partner.

[Read more...](#)

 Search

forum



news



stages of caring



Blue Light Infoline
find out more...

THE CARE ACT
find out about the changes...



LFB case study

The benefits

- Provides **practical information**
 - About both workplace and external support available
- Promotes **workplace support** for carers
 - Among colleagues and line managers
- Increases **employee engagement**
 - Whether carers wish to access support discreetly or openly
- Helps create a more **open culture**
 - Both about caring issues and more widely
- Offers valued **peer support**
 - Helps to tackle carer isolation and stress

Examples of network activities

- Web pages/section on **staff intranet**
- Digital networks and forums
- **Buddying** and **mentoring**
- Face to face **meetings** of network members
- **Lunchtime sessions** with external speakers
- **Masterclasses**
- ‘**Knowledge calls**’ and **webinars**
- **Information stands** at workplace inclusion and wellbeing events



The business case for networks

- **Recruitment**
 - Increasingly seen as an employee benefit
 - Enhances reputation as an 'employer of choice'
- **Retention**
 - Helps get information and support to employees before they reach 'breaking point'
- **Resilience**
 - Peer support helps carers to feel 'less alone, less stressed and more able to cope'
- **Results**
 - Improved staff engagement and performance

Carers UK is here to make life better for carers



We give expert advice,
information and support



We connect carers so
no-one has to care alone



We campaign together
for lasting change



We innovate to find new
ways to reach and
support carers

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