



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

# Carers Action Plan

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# Call for Evidence

- Launched in 2016
- Significant response – 6,802 submissions
- Five themes emerged:
  - Services and systems need to work for carers
  - Better employment and financial wellbeing
  - More support for young carers
  - Better recognition and support for carers in wider community and society
  - Strengthened research and evidence base

# The CAP – what is it?

- Cross-government programme of target work
- Delivery over the next two years
- 64 actions across the 5 themes:
  - Services and systems that work for carers
  - Employment and financial wellbeing
  - Supporting young carers
  - Recognising and supporting carers in the wider community and society
  - Building research and evidence to improve outcomes for carers

# Services and systems that work for carers

- Carers want to feel respected and listened to
- Extensive contact with the health and care system:
  - Important that expertise is recognised
  - Better awareness raising/training of professionals to recognise carers
- Actions focus on:
  - Raising awareness and promoting best practice amongst health professionals
  - Raising awareness amongst social workers
  - Supporting requirements of Care Act and Children and Families Act
  - Personalisation

# Employment and financial wellbeing

- Difficult to balance employment and caring responsibilities:
  - Support for working carers
  - Need more flexible working
  - Better financial support and advice
  
- Actions focus on:
  - Improving working practices
  - Promoting flexible working
  - Supporting carers to return to work
  - Access to financial support

# Supporting young carers

- More support for young carers is needed
  - Poor mental and physical health
  - Miss out on education and employment opportunities
- Actions in the plan focus on:
  - Identification of young carers
  - Improving educational opportunities and outcomes
  - Improving access to support services
  - Transition for young carers

# Recognising and supporting carers in the wider community and society

- Most carers are not receiving formal support in their caring role
  - Important to work with voluntary sector
  - Employers, the public and professionals need to be more aware of carers
- Actions focus on:
  - Using technology and innovation to raise awareness
  - Increasing recognition of carers
  - Community engagement
  - Understanding the impact of loneliness

# Building research and evidence to improve outcomes for carers

- Call for Evidence revealed gaps in knowledge
- Increasingly important to fully understand the role of carers
  
- Actions focus on improving information and data to ensure future strategies are informed by a strong evidence base



# Implementation

- Committed to ensuring the delivery of the actions
- Official-level implementation group
- Minister for Care will chair biannual review meetings:
  - Update on progress of actions
  - Stock take for future activity in the wider context of the Green Paper

**Any questions?**

# Discussion

1. What are the main challenges to providing respite care or using personal budgets/direct payments to help pay for alternative care arrangements? What solutions would help?
2. What are the key challenges and barriers for commissioners, local authorities and providers in implementing the duties in the Care Act supporting carers?