

APPENDIX C

Report to Council on The Carers' Trust from Cllr Bridget Smith

I have had a couple of meetings now with the Carers Trust to talk about their work and specifically about the Care Act 2014 which is now law.

There are 60 000 carers in Cambridgeshire. These include people caring for children and adults with special medical and educational needs, and a surprisingly large number of young carers. Many carers suffer from poor physical and mental health as a direct result of their caring role and many live in situations of financial hardship. 83% have felt lonely or socially isolated as a result of their caring responsibilities. Many suffer from depression.

The focus of the new act is on preventing carers reaching crisis point by building support into their lives and helping them to be more resilient. It gives the carer as much importance as the person being cared for. It also makes sure that ALL carers have access to good quality advice and information and control over their own support needs.

The Carers Trust has won the County Contract to deliver statutory assessments of needs to all carers in the county. The focus is on those people who are not yet known to the authorities and aims to provide sufficient support to them so that they do not present problems serious enough to need high level interventions. An assessment of a carer's needs identifies what they require in order to remain well and able to fulfil their role as a carer e.g. respite care once a month for the cared for person, babysitting each week to allow them to go to the gym, help with laundry, someone to talk to, etc.

The Care Act creates a national minimum eligibility threshold. Where a carer's needs reach threshold, the LA must consider how they are met and, depending upon financial means, may be under a duty to provide services to meet those eligible needs.

The Carers Trust will offer support and advice to all carers in the County and councillors should be signposting residents with caring responsibilities to them at every opportunity.

<http://www.carerstrustcambridgeshire.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/CTC-CTP-Looking-after-someone-A5-01.08.14-v1.0.pdf>

There are a number of fact sheets about the Care Act 2014 available on the .Gov.uk Department of Health website.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-2014-part-1-factsheets>