



Carers Together

Aims and Statement of Purpose

The philosophy or value base underpinning our services

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

- Carers Together is an independent charity run by carers, with carers, for carers and service users.
- It tries to effectively to support individual carers and the people they care for as they wish to be supported.
- It believes that:
 - all carers and service users are individuals with different needs and aspirations
 - carers and service users should be at the centre of all organisations that offer them support
 - any proposed or continuing action or activities by any organisation should reflect the individual and changing needs of carers and service users involved in the organisation.
 - Carers, former carers and service users are in a unique position to understand the emotional, physical and practical issues for carers and service users
 - the experiences and expertise of carers and service users should be harnessed for the benefit of carers and service users.
- Carers Together maintains a comprehensive information resource and gives information and advice to carers and service users. Its aim is to ensure, wherever possible, that:
 - carers and service users are offered informed choice and
 - carers and service users are signposted to appropriate services to meet individual needs.
- Carers Together supports carers and service users to care with dignity and independence by
 - providing an independent non judgemental listening service
 - harnessing the experience of carers and service users for the benefit of carers and service users
 - advocating for carers and service users as needed
- It co-operates with other statutory, voluntary and private organisations on any issues involving carers and service users and in particular the planning, development, implementation and monitoring of services



Carers Together

A consortium of carers in Hampshire
Charity Number 1051879

- In order to achieve its purpose Carers Together
 - ⇒ responds flexibly to needs expressed by carers and service users
 - ⇒ maintains a comprehensive information resource
 - ⇒ provides independent information and advice to carers and service users and ensures wherever possible that carers and service users are offered informed choice
 - ⇒ signposts carers and service users to appropriate services
 - ⇒ supports carers and service users to live with dignity and independence by providing an independent non judgemental listening service
 - ⇒ advocates for carers and service users as needed
 - ⇒ provides and promotes a range of flexible support services for carers and service users
 - ⇒ co-operates with other statutory, voluntary and private organisations on any issues involving carers and service users including service planning, development and implementation

Carers Together

- listens to carers and service users with empathy
- ensures that carers and service users are offered informed choice
- harnesses the experience of carers and service users for the benefit of carers and service users,
- enables and supports carers and service users to live with dignity and independence
- maintains an information resource for carers and service users support
- signposts carers and service users to appropriate services
- advocates for carers and service users as needed



OVERALL AIM:

The aim of Carers Together is to effectively support carers, older people and service users as they wish to be supported.

It encourages, supports and enables carers (of all ages and regardless of whom they care for), older people and service users to identify, co-ordinate and express their needs effectively.

It tries to ensure that they are fully represented in any consultation on planning, development, implementation and monitoring of services provided by statutory, private and voluntary organisations.



CARERS TOGETHER AIMS TO:

- Be accessible to and involve carers, older people and service users from all areas of Hampshire no matter who they care for.
- Listen to carers, older people and service users with empathy and respond appropriately to their individual need.
- Improve the quality of life for carers, older people and service users by providing an independent non-judgemental listening service to enable them to offload.
- Recognise the expertise and experiences of carers, older people and service users and ensure this is used effectively.
- Advocate for carers, older people and service users on issues as they arise and ensure they can benefit from advocacy services and take an active part in expressing their own needs.
- Assist carers, older people and service users to develop a network of support by encouraging and guiding them to take a person centred approach to their needs.
- Support and enable carers, older people and service users to discuss, co-ordinate and represent their needs in all areas and at all levels of decision-making.
- Assist carers, older people and service users to find out more about the range of services available to them.
- Ensure carers, older people and service users are supported according to their individual needs, sometimes by other carers, older people and service users, sometimes by volunteers and sometimes by paid workers.
- Gather and collate information and share this with carers, older people, service users and groups.
- Improve the awareness of carers, older people and service users by facilitating courses to increase their knowledge and skills.
- Develop the individual profile of carers, older people and service users and ensure their voice is heard.
- Ensure carers, older people and service users are involved in all stages of planning, development, implementation and review of services locally and countywide.
- Support carers, older people and service users to find out more about services available to support them including Direct Payments, Individualised Budgets, Self Directed Support, Take a Break etc.
- Give support to existing carers, older people and service users groups in the county as required, establish and support new groups and forums and link them through a countywide carers and service users support network.