



Swindon Carers Centre
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Hello, my name is Stuart Ilbury I am head of service delivery for adult and older carers at Swindon Carers Centre. The Carers Centre is a charity based in Swindon that supports over 4000 of the estimated 21,000 (year 2015) unpaid carers in Swindon. These carers are of all ages from our youngest young carer aged 5 to our eldest older carer almost 100. We work very closely with social services, the live well hub and other partner organisations including work around hospital discharge, with our services including:

- practical and statutory support for carers
- including assessments (called carer conversations),
- groups and activities,
- benefits advice,
- carers support line, (like a social work duty desk).
- and our Emergency Card Scheme (a plan in place should something happen to the carer to support and protect their dependent and stop potential inappropriate hospital admissions).

We currently have focus on collaborating with NHS England and NHS Improvement Southwest sessions as well as working with BSW CCG on supporting unpaid carers both in primary care and secondary care.

Unpaid carers are a focus with regards health and social care and play a vital role. The NHS England long term plan clearly states as part of supporting people to age well the NHS will do this by • improving the recognition of carers and support they receive.

I have attached a link to the Carers UK policy briefing which includes the 2021 GP Patient survey which highlights the importance of supporting unpaid carers and how they feel.

https://www.carersuk.org/for-professionals/policy/policy-library/gp-patient-survey-201?utm_source=Carers%20UK&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=13105129_Policy%20Plus%200-%20March%202022%20edition&dm_i=74C,7SVZD,3N4ELK,VTVTQ,1

Within our Team we have a Health and Social Care Officer (HSCLO), who can support Practices with carers recognition sessions to support staff to recognise and support unpaid carers as well as training on where to refer onwards for support services. The HSCLO also offers quarterly GP carer leads meetings where there is space to develop best practice and peer support across the Practice, PCN and wider in Swindon. The HSCLO also has links with social prescribers/community navigators and the Admiral nurses as examples.

The Team also has links with GP's who would be able to visit and offer guidance and support on how to implement ideas to support carers into practice as well as the important benefits to identification and support of unpaid carers in Primary Care

Please do get in contact with me, to arrange a discussion on how we can collaborate for the benefit of the population: stuart.ilbury@swindoncarers.org.uk

