



Carers Consultation 2009

What could make a positive difference to, or improve the life of, carers? This is the question Liverpool City Council are putting to you.

On June 10th 2008 the Government published its National Strategy for Carers. The document is called "Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities" and it includes a set of commitments and a ten year vision for what support for carers should be like by 2018. By 2018 the Government wants the following outcomes:

- carers will be respected as expert care partners and will have access to the integrated and personalised services they need to support them in their caring role;
- carers will be able to have a life of their own alongside their caring role;
- carers will be supported so that they are not forced into financial hardship by their caring role;
- carers will be supported to stay mentally and physically well and treated with dignity;
- children and young people will be protected from inappropriate caring and have the support they need to learn, develop and thrive, to enjoy positive childhoods and to achieve against all the Every Child Matters outcomes.

Nearly 50,000 people in Liverpool give up a significant proportion of their time to care for a member of their family or friend who needs extra support. Liverpool City Council's Carers Joint Commissioning Group is developing their plan for carers' services based around the National Strategy for Carers outcomes and they want it to be grounded in reality - so they need your input.

Liverpool Carers Centre has been consulting with carers over a number of years on behalf of Liverpool City Council about what their needs are and what carer services and support they want. Subsequently the issues raised by carers during these consultation events have been taken forward and services have been developed as a result.

Liverpool Carers Centre is assisting the Council again with this consultation and we are keen that we reach even more carers than on previous occasions. The consultation period with carers will run from 17th August to 31st October 2009; a questionnaire has been developed, which we think is quick to complete and is your chance to tell Liverpool City Council what type of services are needed to support carers in their caring role. In order to have as much involvement and participation from carers as possible this is available via the development workers at the Liverpool Carers Centre; home visits and telephone interviews with individual carers can be arranged by request and visits to carer support groups will also be carried out.

An event is to be arranged in October at the Liverpool Carers Centre giving carers the opportunity to come together to discuss the issues, and events for young carers and professionals will also be held. If you belong to a support group and you would like to arrange a visit to your meeting, or you would like to arrange a home visit or telephone interview please contact **Kathy Newton, Senior Carers Development Officer on 0151 705 2390 or by e-mail knewton@localsolutions.org.uk**.

The questionnaire is also available on the carer pages of the Liverpool City Council website www.liverpool.gov.uk or by post and e-mail.

Liverpool City Council is committed to listening to carers and ensuring their plans are based on what you have to say. Thank you for helping us by completing this questionnaire.