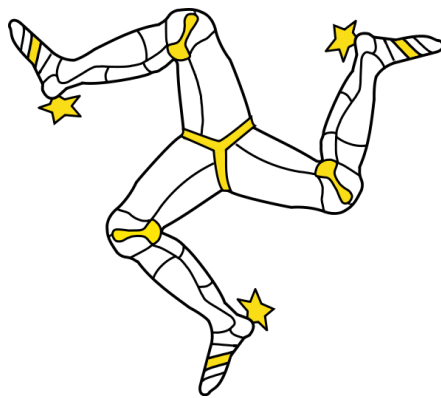


# THE ISLE OF MAN CARERS' CHARTER



## **INTRODUCTION**

Considerable work has been undertaken over recent years on the development of a Carer's Strategy for the Isle of Man. This document is intended to build on that work to acknowledge and commit to support those who care for another in our Island community.

We have therefore chosen not to reproduce the vision or the mission statement that have already been agreed. These together with the work plan which underpins this Charter can be found on the Department of Social Care and the partner websites.

The Charter has been produced with the support of public and third sector organisations, along with carers themselves. It is underpinned by a framework which will support our journey together in developing appropriate support for those family members and friends who care for others. The framework will not be a static document, but will grow and develop over time as we work together to better understand and respond to the needs of carers on the Island.

## **DEFINITION of a CARER**


We have used the definition of a Carer as being:

Someone who supports a relative, friend or neighbour who for any reason needs help with daily living, and receives no payment for doing so.

## THE CHARTER

**On behalf of our respective organisations we commit to the principles outlined in this "Carers' Charter"**

**We will work together, with carers and other parties to implement those principles.**



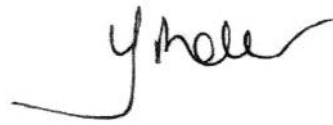
Minister, Department of Health



Chief Executive, Department of Health



Minister, Department of Social Care



Chief Executive, Department of Social Care



Minister, Department of Education and Children



Chief Executive, Department of Education and Children



Chief Executive, Crossroads Care



Chairman, Crossroads Care



Chief Executive, Manx Cancer Help



Director, Manx Cancer Help



Island Manager, Live at Home



Trustee, Live at Home

## CHARTER PRINCIPLES

### CARER'S RIGHTS

We acknowledge the immense contribution carers make to society and their need for appropriate support. **We will implement and continue to develop the principles set out in this Charter**, consolidating existing rights and key principles for supporting carers now and in the future.

### IDENTIFICATION OF CARERS

**We will continue to help professionals in health and care, in both the statutory and voluntary sectors to identify carers.** We can only support carers when they and their needs have been identified. Identification opens the doors to a carer's assessment and to the provision of help and support.

### CARER'S ASSESSMENT

**We will work with the Department of Social Care to implement the Social Services Act and to progress the completion of Carer's Assessments and Carers Support Plans.** This will be achieved through;

- the establishment of an assessment process,
- regulations and guidance notes to the act,
- widely publicising such and the Carer's right to an assessment of their needs.

Staff within all areas of health and social care, in all roles and in all sectors have a vital part to play in supporting this process

### INFORMATION

**We will improve the provision of information and advice to carers.**

### CARERS VOICE

**We will ensure carer representation on strategy groups, service delivery planning and other areas, which directly or indirectly affect them.** Carers will be central to the planning, shaping and delivery of strategies and services for the people with care needs and in relation to support for themselves.

### HEALTH NEEDS

Carer health and well-being is vitally important as carers can suffer poor health both directly and indirectly as a result of caring. **We will promote and support the health needs of carers** themselves ensuring that they have access to health checks and are able to avail themselves of services and treatment.

## **TRAINING**

Carer training promotes carer confidence and enables them to care for longer. **We will promote training for carers.**

## **CARE BREAKS**

The provision of short breaks or respite is hugely important to carers and cared for. **We will work with a range of partners to promote the further development of flexible, personalised care breaks.**

## **FINANCE and EMPLOYMENT**

Worries about finance can have an adverse impact on carer's health, wellbeing, employment and quality of life. **We will explore how carers can be better informed to ensure that they are aware of and receive the benefits to which they are entitled and how they can be supported in managing their finances and avoiding poverty.**

Recognising that it is important for carers to be able to remain in or return to employment and avail themselves of learning or training opportunities. **We will encourage and promote care-friendly employment practices.**

## **COLLABORATIVE WORKING**

There is an identified need for collaborative working to ensure the delivery of co-ordinated services and support to carers. **We will work to achieve a joined up approach between health and care services.**

## **HOUSING**

Housing is an important element in enabling carers to support the person they care for to live independently, safely and with dignity in their own homes and communities. **We will work to support carers in finding appropriate accommodation.**

## **YOUNG CARERS**

A young carer is someone under the age of twenty-one who lives in a family where there is a serious illness or disability. Young Carers are young people first whose lives are affected by care giving or caring issues. **We will give appropriate support to Young Carers**