

Issues Raised at the Public Event

Issues Raised by Carers

Early diagnosis of conditions such as dementia – if not far enough advanced no help offered

Alzheimer's Carer's courses run 2 or 3 times a year – useful.

Caring & Coping course very valuable – lots of information provided

Emotional support required

Signposting

Recognition by professionals

Early referral

Identification as carer was by a nurse who was visiting husband – she identified wife as carer and arranged for a pack

Age Concern had said husband not ready for visitor/befriender – but carer needed to get out and thought it was necessary

Lack of awareness of conditions by carers

Wants to know how she can get respite

Carer has difficulty with mobility so might need help to go out herself

Losing touch with friends so no one to go with if can get out

Feeling that carers are not identified – just feels they are doing their normal duties, which get more onerous

Carer can get ill and this then leaves a gap in caring

Worries about not having any time 'for me'

Anxiety about things getting worse

Praise for care services workers

Services put in place quickly once accepted they were needed

However can be a problem if carers say needed and person being cared for denies need for assessment – this can be extra stressful for the carer

If no Power of Attorney can be very difficult getting information when first start caring

Integrated assessments for both carer and cared for might mean that the needs of both could be considered

Health services, Local Authority & Voluntary Sector don't always know what each other are doing

Concerns about what would happen if care worker replaced by private companies with untrained staff who are not committed to staying in that role

Value of experience in care workers

Carers all unique

Caring for a disabled child is a lifelong commitment

Impact on carer's health – great personal cost

Information needed - not just services

Support from other carers and resilience is important

Needs are for whole family not just for disabled situation

Multiple caring – caring for more than just one person

Issues raised Professionals

Carer's Health

Information can be by word of mouth

Carer's leave from employers is not consistent

Caring and Coping Course is available

GPs to send out carer's packs

Information on benefits

Information on respite

Register of carers by GPs

Some GPs won't tell carer information about the patient

Dialogue between carers and professionals is very important