



Hillingdon Carers' Strategy Group

Background information for Carer representatives

1) The group:

The multi-agency Carers' Strategy group has been meeting for many years to develop, update, oversee and ensure effective delivery of the Hillingdon Carers' Strategy.

The groups consists of representatives from various Council departments - including Social Services, Children's Services, Customer Engagement and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – the Confederation of GPs, Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Hillingdon Carers Partnership (a collaborative of five charities providing a broad range of carer support services under contract to the Council), Healthwatch and other charities that have an remit to support carers/young carers.

The group is committed to continuous improvement in the way carers in Hillingdon are supported and firmly believe that one of the best ways of doing this is to use the 'lived experience' of carers. They are therefore seeking carers to attend meetings and to share their experiences to help to set the right priorities.

2) The work:

Carers representatives will be asked to feed back their relevant experiences of all aspects of caring to ensure that their needs are helping to set the priorities of the Carers Strategy Group and that the annual Delivery Plan is focussing on the right priorities.

Whist this might feel a bit daunting for some, there will be help provided and there is recognition by all those present that a formal meeting environment might not be a natural environment for many. We will try to ensure that jargon is kept to a minimum and that all specialist terminology is explained.

3) The commitment required:

- Attendance at four Carers' Strategy meetings per year at the Civic Centre in Uxbridge, for which out-of-pocket expenses will be covered, including replacement care if required
- Develop a profile amongst carers as their representative – this might necessitate outreach to carer groups, attendance at the two annual Carers Forums (March and October) or at the annual Carers Fair (June)

4) Support provided:

You will be allocated a mentor from the Council, CCG or Hillingdon Carers Partnership who will ensure that you understand all the associated meeting papers and have the opportunity to go through the meeting agenda prior to each meeting and, if required, a debrief after meetings.

If you require help to cover the care of the person you care, we will make arrangements for replacement care to enable you to attend meetings.

All out of pocket expenses will be covered to support your attendance at meetings, such as car mileage or bus/tube fares. If you drive, it is possible to book you a parking space underneath the Civic Centre.

5) What next?

Carers will be selected via a competitive process, although every effort will be made to keep the selection process informal.

Selection to the position will be for one year in the first instance, with the opportunity to stand for a total of three years if agreeable to all parties at the end of each-year.

If you are interested in this role, please contact Sally Chandler, Chief Executive at Hillingdon Carers for an informal chat before you commit. Please call her on 01895 811206.

To proceed with an application, there is a straightforward Expression of Interest form enclosed with this pack. Selection will be by informal interview (probably in late June). Whilst described as an interview, this is more a meeting to discuss the role further, to ask any questions and to see how your skills and experience will fit with the proposed role.