

National Conversations Building a Better System to Support Family Caregivers: Policy

Strategies and policies to change the conversation – England

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Overview – carers in the UK/England

- 10.6 million (Carers UK 2022 polling)
- 12,000 become unpaid carers a day
(Petrillo, M, Bennett M, Pryce, G, Nov 2022)
- Majority working age

Unpaid carers' priorities

- Health and wellbeing
- Recognition - identification and respect!
- Right support to be able to care
- Support for person cared for

Choice needs to run through....



Healthcare policies and strategies

- [NHS Constitution](#): carer involvement
- NHS bodies – must have regard to above
- **New** - NHS Trusts (hospitals) – duty to involve unpaid carers at hospital discharge since 2022
- **New** - NHS regional bodies of Trusts and others (Integrated Care Boards) –
 - Duty to involve carers in plans/services
 - Duty to involve carers when making decisions about patient's diagnosis treatment or care

Health legislative architecture is getting better.....

Healthcare policies and strategies

- NHS bodies have a duty to promote health and wellbeing
- Joint health and social care (local authority) duty to reduce health inequalities
- Caring recognised as social determinant of health by government public health body
- Care Act 2014 (local authorities) duty to promote wellbeing including family caregivers
- Parity of esteem – treated equally in law.

What are the drivers of change?

Drivers of change?

- Policies
- Data drives change – e.g. NHS Staff Survey found 1 in 3 workers were unpaid carers
- Financial incentives
- Monitoring
- Active and engaged voluntary sector
- Active and engaged carers
- Strong carer identification and linked data/use

Does this deliver outcomes?



Questions to ask

- Do employers identify staff who are unpaid carers?
- Is research evidence being used to drive practice?
- Are there incentives and can help drive change rather than just persuasion?
- Are there strong links to local organisations who can support?

Importantly, are we giving family caregivers a choice?

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