



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Carers strategy for Southampton – scrutiny inquiry on 7.1.21

DWP support for carers

Mark Knight – DWP policy, carers lead

*Andy Sherman – Employer and
Partnership Manager*

DWP support for carers

- Carer's Allowance (CA) provides a measure of financial support and recognition for those who have had to give up or limit their employment because of their caring responsibilities.
- In May 2020, over 900,000 people were receiving CA in payment.
- Between 2020/21 and 2025/26 real terms expenditure on Carer's Allowance is forecast to increase by nearly a third (around £1 billion). By 2025/26, the Government is forecast to spend just over £4bn a year on Carer's Allowance.
- As of May 2020, there were 3,517 carers in receipt of Carer's Allowance in the City of Southampton and £12.1 million was spent on CA there in 2019/20.
- Carers also have access to the full range of social security benefits according to their circumstances. Between the existing carer-specific support, and the temporary Covid-19 uplift, 270,000 carer households in GB receiving Universal Credit have benefitted from up to an extra £2,990 this financial year.

Some of the big issues

- Work closely with DHSC and key stakeholders such as Carers UK.
- CA is straightforward to claim – 90% do it online with 90% satisfaction rates.
- Is the rate of CA enough?
- Support for carers through the C-19 pandemic.
- The interaction between CA and other benefits is complex. Carers can also receive means tested benefits.
- Supporting carers into employment (Fuller Working Lives, employment support from Jobcentres, CA earnings limit).
- Health and wellbeing of carers.
- Sharing data and information.

What is DWP doing locally?

- Youth Hub established in Southampton as a result of a DWP and Southampton City Council initiative. The Youth Hub team will signpost to advice and support around housing, benefits, health and wellbeing to provide a holistic and person-centred service for young people. It will utilise a wealth of virtual tools including web chat, video conferencing, online resources and podcasts so we can still work with people including Young Carers during the pandemic.
- DWP Complex Case Plans enables Jobcentre Work Coaches to signpost Young Carers to support available within local community.
- DWP and Southampton City Council have signed a Partnership Agreement enhancing collaboration in moving residents closer to or into employment.