
Date: 17 June 2008

LEEDS GETS ON THE BUSES TO HELP CARERS

Leeds City Council is asking for the city's unseen and unheard army of carers to come forward and make themselves known.

The city's buses have been brought in to help spread the message that carers themselves sometimes need to be cared for, with a high-profile advertising campaign.

Councillor Valerie Kendall, deputy executive board member for adult social care says:

“There are over 70,000 people in Leeds who we know spend time caring for ill, disabled or older relatives or friends. But we fear that the known carers may only be the tip of the iceberg – and that there could be many more out there whom we have not yet reached.

“We are fortunate in Leeds to have a robust carers' support service and there are many things we can do to help carers look after themselves, as well as the person they care for. The idea of our campaign is to reach as many carers as possible to see what we can do to help them help others.”

It is well-known that dedicated carers often put their own wellbeing last and caring for someone can often be at the expense of health, free time, even jobs and careers.

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For more news and information from Leeds City Council visit www.leeds.gov.uk



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

However, this need not be the case and Leeds City Council is inviting carers to contact the carers' support service, where they can receive advice on respite breaks, claiming financial benefits, information on combining work and caring, and services for the cared-for person that could help lift the load for carers.

An information pack is available by calling 0845 125 4113, which gives details of services and support that carers may be entitled to, or carers could log on to www.leeds.gov.uk/healthandsociacare/carers.

Councillor Kendall continued:

“Leeds City Council supports carers in a number of ways, such as support for emergencies, a wide range of information on how to get help, support for young carers and support for older carers.”

Notes for editors

The most recent figures show that there are nearly 70,500 known carers in Leeds. Between them, they put in around two million hours of unpaid caring every week. This adds up to around £1 billion of care in Leeds every year (as estimated by Carers UK).

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