


**Central
Bedfordshire**

Carers Services

Improving the quality of life of
carers in Central Bedfordshire



Who cares?

- Adults or young people who provide care on an unpaid basis
- People with parental responsibility for a disabled child who provides, or intends to provide, a substantial amount of care on a regular basis for the child.
- Approximately 1 in 8, or 25,210 people in Central Bedfordshire

Carers make a difference

“Carers enable friends or relatives who are ill, frail or disabled to live with independence and dignity” (Carers UK)





Carers and their rights

•Carers & Disabled Children's Act 2000

- Carers right to request an assessment of their needs
- Local Authorities have powers to provide services to carers

•Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004

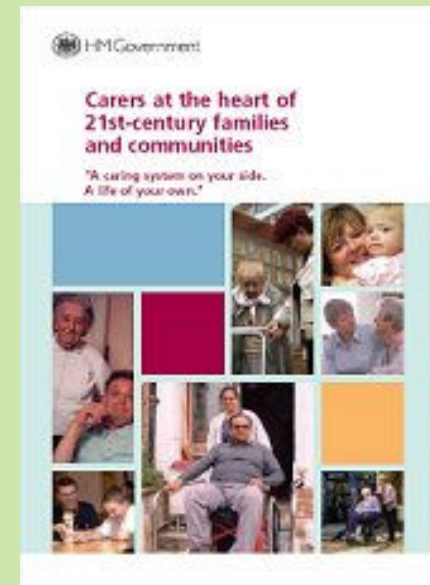
- Local Authority duty to inform carers of their right to an assessment
- Social, education and employment opportunities must be addressed in assessment



Carers Rights Day 2009

National strategy

- “Carers at the heart of 21st Century families and communities” (2008)
 - Treated as expert care partners
 - Access to information and services
 - A life of their own
 - Not forced into financial hardship
 - Mental and physical well-being
 - Young Carers protected from inappropriate roles





Working in partnership

- Review of local services and needs by Carers UK overseen by Local Authority, Health and Third Sector
- Workshop with carers, Health and Third Sector to identify local priorities against National Strategy
- Central Bedfordshire Council and NHS Bedfordshire produce joint Carers Plan

... “Without this we wouldn’t have a break” ... “it’s good for the soul” ... “now I’ve been to the seaside” ... “quality time” ...
“helps me think clearly” ... “got me socialising again” ...
“confidence and encouragement” ... “a feeling of belonging” ...
“a lifesaver” ... “just what I needed ” ... “a relief and nice to know someone cares about me and my son ” ...

