

Carers Grant

# Guidelines

#### Introduction to Carers Grant

Many carers do not recognise themselves as carers or the impact that caring is having on their lives. Many carers also do not choose to call themselves 'carers' and/or do not like distinctions to be made between different kinds of carer (eg older carer, young carer) although from a service point of view that is sometimes necessary.

A Carer is someone looking after a relative, friend or neighbour who needs support because of age, a physical disability, a learning disability, a physical illness or a mental illness. A carer can be of any age and can be of either sex. Carers come from all backgrounds and communities and the care they provide is unpaid.

The Carers Grant forms part of the Governments National Strategy for Carers, 'Caring about Carers', published in 1999. The grant is designed to: -

- Stimulate diversity and flexibility of service provision to enable carers to take a break from caring
- Help identify and provide new carers services
- Support carers in their caring role

The Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004, which came into force in April 2005, gives carers the rights to information: -

- The local authority has a duty to inform a carer of their right to a carer assessment - work, life-long learning and leisure are to be considered when a carer is assessed
- When a Carer's Assessment is being completed it must take into account whether the carer works or wishes to work, any courses the carer is taking or wishes to take, and any other leisure activities the carer undertakes or wishes to undertake. The local authority can enlist the help of housing, health, education and other local authorities in providing support to carers

The grant can be used to implement the provisions of the act, this means that the grant can be used to help carers with work, leisure and study opportunities as well as breaks and activities.

#### Who Can Apply?

Any community or voluntary groups that supports carers who look after an adult (18+) as outlined above.

#### What can the grant be used for?

- Activities that enable the carer to have a break, either directly by the carer themselves going on a break or the cared for person going on a break, (which indirectly gives the carer a break from their routine)
- 'Breaks' can be defined as day trips, activity sessions, overnight stays
- Alternative therapies, including stress relief, aromatherapy
- Equipment that will assist carers in their caring role
- IT and Educational activities and programmes
- Leisure and health promotion activities / opportunities
- Training for carers

#### **Funding is not available for**

- newsletters
- day to day running costs
- no more than 2.5% to be used for administration / management costs
- applications from individuals
- political projects
- routine maintenance of equipment / premises

#### **Application Process**

A Carers Panel assesses applications, membership of the panel includes Carer representatives and Officers from the Adult Services Department. The panel makes recommendations, which are referred to Adult Services for agreement. Funding is allocated based on the priorities identified in the local Wigan Borough Carer Strategy. Funding is limited and the current upper limit on applications is £10,000 maximum.

The panel will meet on the 28th March 2008. The applications are considered on the basis of the application form and previous monitoring information if applicable. It is important that your completed application is returned 2 weeks prior to the panel date.

You will be informed of the decision by letter. If successful you will be expected to sign a grant agreement form and supply monitoring information on the grant expenditure.

#### **Contact Information**

Completed Application forms or enquiries to

Carers Grant Monitoring and Development Officer  
Carers Resource Team  
Hyndelle Lodge  
King Street  
Hindley  
Wigan  
WN2 3AW

**Contact** Steven Hill

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