

# Carers Grant

## What is the fund for?

The Carers Grant is available for new projects that improve services and supports to Family Carers across Suffolk.

**A Family Carer is someone who looks after a relative or friend who needs support because of age, physical or learning disability or illness, including mental illness. This includes parent carers of disabled children and young carers aged under 18.**

You can use the money to give Family Carers a break, so they have time to themselves away from their normal caring responsibilities. This may be achieved by using the funding to provide a service to the person they care for. The break should be a positive experience for both the Family Carer and cared-for and could include providing activities for young carers on a one-to-one or peer group support basis.

You can also use the grant to provide information, advice and support directly to Family Carers; some schemes currently funded include those that:

- assist Family Carers to return to education or employment
- give Family Carers advice on manual handling techniques relevant to their individual situation
- provide advice and support following the cared-for persons discharge from hospital or Intermediate Care
- provide playschemes to disabled children
- seek to increase the availability of culturally sensitive short breaks and respite care
- offer Family Carers opportunities for consultation and participation in service planning and developments

We welcome applications for creative and innovative projects, the underlying condition is that you have evidence that Family Carers would welcome the service or at least can provide reasons why you think the service is required e.g new guidance or legislation.

You may want to consult the 'Strategy for Family Carers in Suffolk', to see what priorities have been identified for the next few years. (For access to this see contact details below).

## **Who can apply?**

You can apply if you are a voluntary organisation supporting Family Carers. Funding from the Carers Grant is allocated annually from 1<sup>st</sup> April. Applications should be received by 30<sup>th</sup> Sep. for consideration for the following year.

## **Amount of funding available and length of funding**

There is no lower or upper limit for funding. We usually fund a project for up to three years in the first instance.

## **Information we will need**

We will agree with each scheme:

- ✓ targets at the beginning of each year regarding how many Family Carers you will aim to support
- ✓ the specific service you offer – if this is a breaks service we will specify the target number of breaks

Every six months we will give you an evaluation form. We will ask for data that enables us to report to the DoH. This includes the amount of service activity and the expenditure from the grant that has taken place during that period.

If the scheme is ongoing, towards the end of the year we will discuss with you any increase or decrease in activity that is predicted for the following year.

- ❖ Core Principles for services
- ❖ Breaks should be about Family Carers having some quality time for themselves.
- ❖ Consult with and involve Family Carers in the planning, delivery and monitoring of the service.
- ❖ Include feedback from the Family Carers in evaluations
- ❖ Work in partnership with other local agencies to ensure co-ordinated support to Family Carers
- ❖ Be flexible and responsive to changing needs

## **Contact**

Fiona Knott, Carers Project Officer, Social Care Services,  
127 Ipswich Street, Stowmarket. IP14 1BB - 01449 626192  
Email: [fiona.knott@socserv.suffolkcc.gov.uk](mailto:fiona.knott@socserv.suffolkcc.gov.uk)