

Please share this newsletter with your networks and relevant providers.



Caring Together Warwickshire Bulletin

February 2023

ISSUE: 1

Welcome to the first issue of the **Caring Together Warwickshire** Bulletin.

Going forward the bulletin will be sent to you every month and will showcase the usual updates, events and opportunities specific to all partners who support people with caring responsibilities. This includes, social care, health and community sectors as well as carers themselves.

We encourage all partners to contribute to this bulletin by sending in your news stories and how your service supports Warwickshire's caring residents' health and wellbeing.

We want to hear feedback from those who look after someone as well as partners on what they would like to see in this bulletin going forward.

For general information on support available for adult caring for adults, young and young adult carers and parent carers of children with SEND please visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/carers.

If you have a suggestion or comment then please email Ranbir Johal, Commissioning Support Officer at Warwickshire County Council at ranbirjohal@warwickshire.gov.uk

IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE...

Events

- **Caring Together Warwickshire Conference (22 March 2023) - book your place now! [CLICK HERE](#)**
- **Young Carers Action Day - 15 March 2023**
- **Autism Acceptance Week - 27 March - 2 April 2023**

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- **Help shape future services for informal carers**

EVENTS

CONTRIBUTOR: WCC

CONTACT: Ranbir Johal - ranbirjohal@warwickshire.gov.uk

Caring Together Warwickshire Conference (the new All Age Carers service) - 22 March 2023



Warwickshire County Council will be holding it's Caring Together Warwickshire conference (the new All Age Carers service) on **22 March 2023 at The Benn Hall in Rugby.**

The conference will host guest speakers and will have information stalls from various WCC teams and partner organisations.

A free buffet lunch will be provided. If you are interested in attending, please book via the [Eventbrite link](#) for questions and information please email peoplestrategyandcommissioning@warwickshire.gov.uk.

Young Carers Action Day (15 March 2023)



[Young Carers Action Day \(15 March 2023\)](#) The theme this year will be **Making Time for Young Carers**. We will be highlighting the support for young and young adult carers throughout the county.

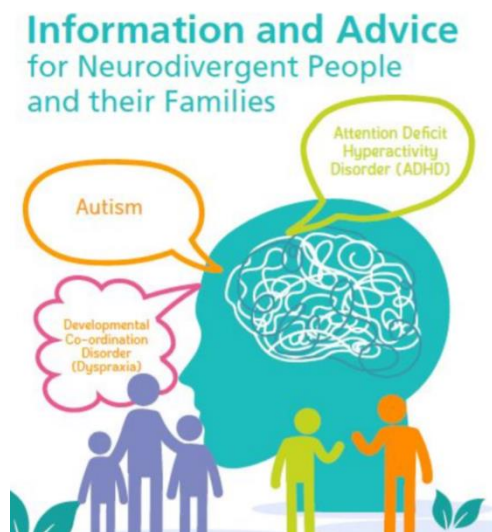
Campaign details will be shared with partners and we encourage all to share your plans with us so we can amplify the message. If you have not done so already why not take the [Young Carer Aware CPD Accredited E-learning click here](#) to access the course and encourage your colleagues and networks to do the same.

Young Carers Caring Together Warwickshire can support young carers please call 0800 197 5544 or go to www.caringtogetherwarwickshire.org.uk to make a referral or to find out more about support available.



Autism Acceptance Week

This year Autism Acceptance Week falls between Monday 27 March – Sunday 2 April 2023. Partners across Coventry and Warwickshire are currently organising a schedule of activities and information sharing locally so please look out for this on Coventry and Warwickshire social media channels.



For local information and advice for neurodivergent people and their families visit the news page of the Dimensions of Health and Wellbeing website link <https://dimensions.covwarkpt.nhs.uk/News.aspx?NID=26> or through the QR code below.



Find out more about what autism acceptance through the [National Autism Society webpage link](#)

UPDATE

CONTRIBUTOR: WCC

CONTACT: Ranbir Johal - ranbirjohal@warwickshire.gov.uk

Caring Together Warwickshire website



We now have a brand new name for the All-Age Carers Service, **Caring Together Warwickshire**, the logo and branding was chosen by local carers.

The Caring Together Warwickshire service (provided by Carers Trust Heart of England) has recently set up a website, <https://www.caringtogetherwarwickshire.org.uk>.

Here you can find updates about the service and information and support for all carer age groups. **This is a work in progress and will have new features as the website develops.**

Caring Together Warwickshire aims to put the carer at the centre of everything it does by working with those who have caring responsibilities, who are experts by experience.

The Caring Together Warwickshire Innovation Fund 2022/23



The Caring Together Warwickshire Innovation Fund 2022/23 was launched in November 2022 and asked local organisations to put forward carer focused ideas to support those with caring responsibilities.

Following panel review, which included carers, we are pleased to say 14 applicants were successful and received an award of the fund at the end of January 2023.

Following panel review, which included carers, applicants were notified of the award of the fund at the end of January 2023.

There were a variety of projects and proposals from gardening, to carer-led groups, peer support for parent carers, day services for those living with dementia as well as trips and outings to give young carers a break from caring.

The administration of the fund will be carried out by the Carers Trust Heart of England. The projects will all start before March 2023 and will be evaluated to determine the outcome of these projects and the impact on carers.

OPPORTUNITY

CONTRIBUTOR: WCC

CONTACT: Phil Jarvis, Senior Librarian

philjarvis@warwickshire.gov.uk

Warwickshire Libraries are gifting warm bags and toiletry bags, while stocks last, at our Warwickshire County Council run branches to help people impacted by cost-of-living increases.

This offer is in partnership with the Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme, funded by the Household Support Fund.

People are encouraged to come into a Warwickshire Library branch where they will find the bags in a designated area, and they can just be collected for free. The Warm Bags and Toiletry Bags will be available from Monday 30 January.

The Warm Bag contains a blanket, hat, scarf, hot water bottle, and gloves.

The toiletry bags are sub-divided into three offers:

- One toiletry bag containing female sanitary/period products.
- Hygiene products for children (containing toothpaste for 3-8 years, toothbrush for 6+ years, shampoo, and bubble bath).
- Hygiene products for adults (containing toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, shower gel and soap).

Please get the word out about these bags through your colleagues and networks and to those people whom you feel will benefit from them.

Also, please do let us know if you have any feedback about the offer via the email above.

NEWS

CONTRIBUTOR: WCC

CONTACT: Phil Jarvis, Senior Librarian

philjarvis@warwickshire.gov.uk

WARM WELCOME



Warwickshire Library branches are also functioning as Warm Hubs; this initiative is called 'Warm Welcome'.

The following link contains more information on the 'Warm Welcome' offer:

www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk/home/warm-welcome-locations

To find out more about the work Warwickshire Libraries are doing to help people with the cost-of-living increases, please find details on the subject on the following Warwickshire Libraries blog:

librariesblog.warwickshire.gov.uk/2022/05/23/how-your-library-can-help-as-the-cost-of-living-increases/

We also want to support our Warwickshire residents who could be experiencing some form of digital exclusion in everyday life. Digital exclusion comes in many forms and can have real-world impacts such as the ability to communicate with family members and friends, find work and develop career skills, find the best deals on everyday expenses, as well as feeling lonely and isolated from the digital world.

Visit our 'You Can Online' website to find out more.

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/youcanonline

CONTRIBUTOR: WCC

CONTACT: Stephanie Gardner: email:
stephaniegardner@warwickshire.gov.uk

Household Support Fund



As you will be aware, £421 million has been made available to County

Councils and Unitary Authorities in England to support those most in need to help with global inflationary challenges and the significantly rising cost of living.

The objective of the Household Support Fund is to provide support to vulnerable households in most need of support to help with significantly rising living costs, specifically food, energy and water bills. This phase of the grant runs from 01 October 2022 to 31 March 2023 and Warwickshire has again been allocated £3.47million, which is being distributed through the existing Local Welfare Scheme.

The first of two cost of living payments has been distributed to families/carers with children eligible for benefits related free school meals. This has provided

- **19,454 eligible children with food support (£583,620)**
 - **11,216 eligible households with energy support (£841,200).**
- This same cohort will be receiving another payment in February 2023.**

As well as extending its general welfare offer to residents in crisis, the Local Welfare Scheme has also recently awarded grants to local food banks, charities, and community groups to support local food and energy related projects.

Help for Warwickshire residents struggling to pay utility bills

In recognition that an unexpected increase in costs can create real challenges for our residents who are experiencing financial hardship, a county wide utilities voucher campaign has now launched.

Short-term financial assistance in the form of a one-off voucher payment will be available to help those who are struggling to afford energy and water bills. This will supplement ongoing emergency support from the Local Welfare Scheme for residents in financial crisis.

Anyone entitled to benefits eligible free school meals has already received this support.

Vulnerable residents in Warwickshire who are struggling financially can apply for support by contacting the Local Welfare Scheme directly on 0800 4081448 or 01926 359182. For further information please visit:

- <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme>
- <https://www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk/>

If you have any questions and or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Stephanie Gardner: email:

stephaniegardner@warwickshire.gov.uk

SPOTLIGHT

Rugby Citizens Advice

Rugby Citizens Advice provides free, confidential, impartial and independent general advice and information on a wide range of subjects including

- welfare benefits

- disability issues
- Universal Credit
- debt
- consumer matters
- employment
- housing
- relationships
- legal issues
- health
- education and much more.

We also offer a casework service for those with multiple debt problems and those having problems with housing matters including eviction and possession.

Find us

Rugby Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). 1st floor, Chestnut House, 32 North Street, Rugby, CV21 2AG. (Entrance via North St Car Park)

Accessibility

Wheelchair access: Yes Blue Badge parking available

Rugby Drop-in times

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 10.00am to 2.00pm

Contact (Freephone)

0808 250 5715 Lines are open every weekday from 9am-5pm Email: adviser@brancab.org.uk

Warwickshire Out of Hours Service: 0800 995 6047 Operating Mondays 5.00pm-7.00pm



Dignity, Respect and Kindness at the heart of everything we do

AmbaCare Solutions is a social enterprise (Not for Profit, voluntary organisation) based in the West Midlands, working across the UK, delivering services which support people to optimise their wellbeing. We develop and deliver evidence based programmes to improve people's physical and mental health, promote wellbeing and address health inequalities by recognising the central role that the wider determinants of health play in shaping health outcomes. Our initiatives support and enable people to deal with the daily challenges they have in all aspects of their life. We believe that everyone is unique and tailor our solutions to acknowledge and embrace diversity in a positive way, believing that we can all learn from each other.

We work with adults aged 18+ including people who are living with dementia; living with long term conditions; experiencing physical health issues; experiencing mental health issues; who are frail and/ or have complex needs; isolated and/or lonely; vulnerable; informal carers. Our primary aim is to focus on interventions which have the greatest impact on avoidable illness, health protection and the promotion of wellbeing and resilience to prevent or delay the dependence on statutory health and social care services. We deliver this through a number of initiatives:-

Dementia Services

A diagnosis of dementia almost always comes as a shock and is difficult for everyone involved including the person themselves as well as the wider family. We provide services to reassure and support people to understand more about dementia and the positive actions that can be taken to delay the progression of dementia and promote quality of life.



Wellbeing Services

Most people know that by keeping active, eating healthily, practising relaxation and keeping their mind active they can feel better in themselves. However we know that this is easier said than done so we work with individuals and communities to develop initiatives to support people to cope with the challenges they face daily, in all aspects of their life, that have a negative impact on their wellbeing.



Support Services

We provide a free telephone helpline, online and face to face support to people who are finding life difficult for many different reasons. We assist people to access appropriate housing and care. We have a number of volunteer roles to support people who are lonely and isolated; having difficulty getting online and using internet services.



Training and Development

We deliver a wide range of training courses which focus on the impact that personal values, attitudes and behaviours have on the delivery of services and care. Cultural sensitivity and competence is embedded in our training to ensure people are treated in the way that they want, to ensure that is personalised to their needs.



We work in partnership with other organisations, to deliver initiatives which ensure that people are fully supported in achieving all aspects of wellbeing by enabling them to address the issues which matter to them. We encourage and support them to take responsibility for their own health, happiness and independence. To learn more about our initiatives contact:-

Ruth Chauhan m. 07974 727223 email ruth@amba-uk.org or Dr Jay Chauhan PhD jay@amba-uk.org

For more information visit our websites - www.amba-uk.org and www.dementiadiversity.org.uk

GET INVOLVED

Can you help us shape future services for Informal Carers in Warwickshire?



Are you supporting or caring for a family member, friend or neighbour?



Have you previously looked after someone?



Are you interested in supporting people who look after others in Warwickshire?

If the answer is yes, Warwickshire County Council wants to hear from you.

There are lots of opportunities for those with lived experience of caring to advise us on how we should shape services.

This could be simply completing a one-off survey, through to reviewing documents and attending meetings. The choice of how much you want to work with the council is entirely up to you.

You don't have to commit to specific hours – we want to work around you!

If you are interested in this opportunity or have any questions, please email Healthwellbeingandselfcare@warwickshire.gov.uk or call **01926 410410** and someone will get in touch with you.

For general information on Carers Support please visit our website www.warwickshire.gov.uk/carers



THANK YOU



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Wanted to join to learn more about Carers.

Our mailing address is:

Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall
Warwick, Warwickshire CV34 4RL
United Kingdom

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