



Welcome to this issue of the Caring Together Warwickshire Bulletin. For general information on support available for carers and young carers, please visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/carers.

No Wrong Doors for Young Carers

Join Carers Trust, the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADASS), the Local Government Association (LGA) and others for the re-launch of the refreshed “No Wrong Doors for Young Carers” Memorandum of Understanding and supporting guidance.

Hear different experiences of how children’s services, adult services, integrated care boards and other system partners are working together to improve identification and support for young carers and their families and improving transitions for young adult carers.

This online event will be held on 29 February 2024 (10am – 12.00pm). To reserve a place please click [here](#).

Working and supporting someone’s health or care

A new information product for carers titled [working and supporting someone’s health or care](#) has been launched on the gov.uk job help campaign site.

These new pages focus on the needs of those who may be starting to have concerns about whether they can combine work with caring. They aim to provide carers with advice and signposting to support them to stay in work or continue to look for work if they want and are able to.

We welcome feedback from yourselves and would be happy for you to signpost to these pages from your own websites.

GP Learning Disability Friendly Badge

The Learning Disability Friendly Badge is a quality standard for GPs to be recognised as a learning disability friendly practice.

It was developed by the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board, the local Grapevine and a group of GPs who share an interest and passion in tackling health inequalities.

For more information, please click [here](#) or [here](#).



New course: Singing for Wellbeing

Singing for Wellbeing is a partnership between the SYDNI Centre and Arts Uplift CIC. It is a free series of 12 weeks of singing workshops with an experienced choir leader for people looking to find coping strategies and improve mental wellbeing. This choir is suitable for beginners.

The course will be held at SYDNI Centre, Leamington Spa.

Starting from 9 February 2024 (1.00pm – 2.00pm)

To book a place, please call 01926 422071 or email bookings@sydni.org.

For more details, please click [here](#).



Winter Wellness

The cold weather poses a greater risk to general health and people may be facing financial pressures. To help residents stay safe and well through winter, Warwickshire County Council and partners have produced a Winter Wellness guide. It features a range of information and links to services and support people may need at this time, particularly those who may be isolated or vulnerable.

The guide is part of a wider winter wellness support offer at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/winterwellness which includes information about health, wellbeing and help for residents who are struggling with the rising costs of living. The added pressures posed by increased household costs can lead to worry and anxiety, impacting on physical and mental health and the guide and website feature tips to help people to look after themselves and others. Information about vaccinations is also included.

Please also remember to register with your GP as a carer. This will allow GPs to support you in your caring role. Further information is available [here](#).

Dementia in South Asian Communities

Alzheimer's Society provide support for people affected by dementia. This includes building relationships with minority communities who are not using our service. We are currently focusing on the South Asian community in Warwickshire.

If you are from a South Asian background and live in Warwickshire, we would be grateful if you could complete this [questionnaire](#). For more information, please click [here](#).

Mobilise

Mobilise work in partnership with Warwickshire County Council to provide a range of free online services to support informal carers including practical and emotional support.

Join other carers for a virtual cuppa!

The Mobilise online, or virtual, cuppa is a free 45 min video call where you can connect with around 12 other people who are also looking after a loved one.

We're entirely focussed on supporting unpaid carers, rather than the person they look after. Every unpaid carer is warmly welcomed to join us, simply choose a time to suit you from our timetable.

For more information, please visit our website:
<https://support.mobiliseonline.co.uk/warwickshire>



Are you carer aware?

To further your understanding of what it means to be a carer, we encourage all our partners to set aside some time to take Warwickshire County Council's free CPD accredited online [Carer Aware](#) and [Young Carer Aware](#) courses (estimated completion time is 30-40 minutes each).

Healthwatch contract award update

Warwickshire County Council commissions a local health watch service delivered by Healthwatch Warwickshire. The core purpose of this service is to help understand the needs, experiences and concerns of people who use health and social care services, and to speak out on their behalf.

Following a recent procurement exercise, the contract for this service was awarded to the incumbent provider; Healthwatch Warwickshire. The new provision commenced on 1 November 2023 with an initial contract duration lasting until 31 October 2028.

To find out more, please click [here](#).

Bridgit – Virtual Assistant for Carers

The Association of Directors of Social Services (ADASS) is sponsoring a pilot for Bridgit for Warwickshire County Council.

Unpaid carers may often find themselves waiting for things like appointments with health professionals, social workers or responses from the council. This waiting can be frustrating and can make carers feel helpless. Bridgit fills the 'waiting' gap and empowers carers to find information, advice and real-time and personalised support for themselves. Bridgit has all the information in one convenient place that can be accessed 24/7.

Bridgit is a very user-friendly system with simple navigation so carers can easily explore even if they have limited IT skills.

Bridgit was designed by carers and care experts and allows carers to explore around their caring role, get support in relation to their wellbeing, finances and employment, and get intelligent signposting to local services and events.

Bridgit's website is <https://bridgit.care/support/warwickshire>. Please also see the poster on the next page.

Accelerating Reform Fund

The Department for Health and Social Care announced in December 2023 a fund of over £42 million to all Integrated Care Systems to support innovation in adult social care. Expression of Interest for this non-competitive funding was submitted on 12 January 2024 by Coventry City Council on behalf of the ICS. Projects included support for unpaid carers across Coventry and Warwickshire. DHSC response is expected mid-February 2024 and funding is expected to be available from March 2024.

We would be keen to work with system partners and people with lived experience to support these projects over the coming year. If you have any questions, please email peoplestrategyandcommissioning@warwickshire.gov.uk.

Further details can be seen [here](#).



Further information and contributing to bulletin.

The Caring Together Warwickshire Service (commissioned by Warwickshire County Council and provided by Carers Trust Heart of England) has a website (www.caringtogetherwarwickshire.org.uk) where you can find updates about the service, and information and support for all carer age groups.

Further information about services available for carers can be seen here: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/carers>.

If you would like to submit any information for inclusion in future bulletins, please submit it to ranbirjohal@warwickshire.gov.uk.

Do you support a friend,
family member or
neighbour?

Access
Online
Carers
Self-Help

Local Services
& Events

NHS Health
Advice

Financial
Support &
Discounts



Scan QR code or visit
[https://bridgit.care/support/
ww?t=service](https://bridgit.care/support/ww?t=service)
to create your own self-help
plan

