

Objects

The Objects of Southend Carers (as defined in our Articles of Association) are "To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of carers in Southend-On-Sea, Essex, and surrounding areas and, in particular, the advancement of education, the promotion of health and well-being, and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness."

Main Aims

Carers of all ages caring for someone with a care need will :-

- ★ identify themselves as carers and have their needs identified / understood in order that they might receive focussed and appropriate services in response
- ★ be provided with the latest accurate information relating to the needs and development of carers and the lives of their dependents
- ★ live healthy lives as regards their emotional and physical well-being
- ★ gain opportunities which promote social development to alleviate the isolation that many carers feel due to their caring role and responsibilities
- ★ have someone to advocate on their behalf in order that they can access a range of community services for their benefit and to ensure their development
- ★ learn new skills and gain experience which will assist with their personal development to live fuller lives and benefit through taking up opportunities when available

Furthermore :-

- ★ health & social care professionals and the local community will develop awareness of carers' issues in order to develop programmes which provide customised support addressing these issues within a strategic approach
- ★ carers will be included in all strategic development of agencies working in the services sectors whether voluntary , statutory or commercial, locally, regionally and nationally

Organisational Objectives

The objectives of Southend Carers are to :-

- (1) develop a secure funding base from which to develop a sustainable and high quality service for carers.
- (2) be recognised as the lead provider of advice, information and support services to carers of all ages in Southend and the surrounding areas.
- (3) engage with key stakeholders to ensure the views, needs, problems and hopes of carers in Southend are represented to decision makers within the statutory, commercial and voluntary sectors, ensuring these views are always included in the development of strategy, and to campaign locally and nationally to ensure carers needs and rights are recognised.
- (4) continually develop and assess the range of support functions we offer to ensure services evolve in-line with changing needs by identifying these needs locally and in line with the national picture around carers.
- (5) ensure our services are delivered to a consistent and high quality that meets the targets set by our funders and the needs of our service users within the diverse communities of Southend.
- (6) work in partnership with statutory bodies, other local charities and commercial organisations to ensure that the needs of carers are always included in plans made locally, regionally and nationally and to work with other agencies to ensure that services are developed to benefit the full range of carers needs.
- (7) continually develop our board, staff and volunteers via recruitment and training to build a team best placed to deliver our services.
- (8) provide a range of services that continue and build upon our current provision, so that all carers seeking services are supported, advised and informed.
- (9) be the voice of carers, representing those who need additional support through a range of advocacy services.
- (10) increase the number of people who are registered as carers yearly by 10% so that more carers who may benefit from our services are able to do so.
- (11) identify and understand the needs, concerns, problems, hopes, aspirations, of young, parent and adult carers through consultation and ongoing contact in the community
- (12) provide a range of social, training and educational activities so that carers are able to learn new skills and gain experience which will assist with their personal development to live fuller lives.

Our Values

- User led :** We are service user led to ensure that our service users are at the heart of our governance and the development of services.
- Fair :** equality of opportunity is key to effect full inclusivity for carers **irrespective of age, gender, ethnicity, faith, disability or sexuality** in order that they can access our services and those provided by other agencies in the community.
- Individual :** All carers deserve to have appropriate support which might be customised (**as far as resources allow**) to meet their specific needs as opposed to generic models being adopted.
- Quality :** We will ensure that our services are of the highest quality at all times.
- Partnership :** We will work in partnership with other agencies to ensure that services are developed to meet the full range of carers needs.
- Advocacy :** We will advocate on behalf of carers in Southend on Sea and represent their views to key decision makers.
- Accountability :** We will be accountable to carers and to funders for the effective use of resources in meeting the needs of carers.