

# Caring for someone?

Introduction to the new  
Carer Passport scheme for family  
& friends looking after someone  
in this mental health trust



## What is a carer?

A carer is anyone who cares, unpaid, for a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without their support.

If you provide support to another person, irrespective of whether you live with that person or not, you are considered a carer, even if the person you care for is unable, or even unwilling to acknowledge your involvement.

## What is a carer passport?

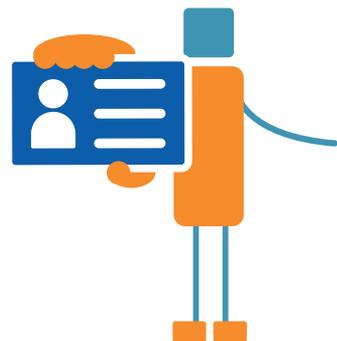
A carer passport is a way of identifying a carer.

If you are supporting someone who is receiving care from mental health services, the carer passport is a way of identifying yourself to members of staff.

It will make sure that your opinions, experiences and concerns are listened to and that staff know to share necessary and appropriate information with you about the person you care for with their permission.

It will enable you to identify yourself as a carer alongside your role as a parent, spouse, sibling etc. As your information will be held in a centrally located place, it will inform staff members of your caring role, without you having to tell your story again.

A carer passport may also give you access to special support arrangements that the trust have put in place for carers. Ask the carer lead/champion for more information.



## How do you apply?

If you would like a carer passport, please speak to a member of staff or the team carer lead/champion to complete an application form.

They will be able to give you an application form and explain how the system works. You will also be given a Carers Information Pack, be offered a referral to your local carers service and be offered a referral for a carers assessment.

Please contact the carer lead for

**[insert ward name]**

on this phone number:

**[insert phone number]**

The local carers service is:

**[NAME OF CARERS SERVICE]**

[Address Line 1]

[Address Line 2]

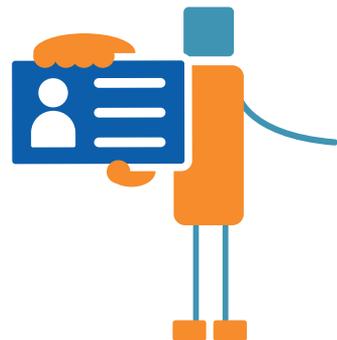
[Town/City]

[POSTCODE]

**T:** 01234 567890

**E:** name@emailaddress.com

**webaddress.co.uk**



## Where to find more information

More information about the benefits and challenges of establishing Carer Passport schemes can be found on the Carer Passport website, as part of a partnership project run by Carers UK and Carers Trust, funded by the Department of Health and Social Care.

[www.carerpassport.uk](http://www.carerpassport.uk)

