



Mental Health
Trust logo

An introduction to the Carer Passport scheme

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 someone is involved with and provides support to another person irrespective of whether they live with that person or not, they should be considered to be a carer and be actively engaged by the care team. This applies even if the person being cared for is unable, or even unwilling, to acknowledge the carer's involvement.

A carer may be a relative - such as a parent, child or sibling - partner or friend.

What they have in common is wanting to help the person they care for to be safe and recover.

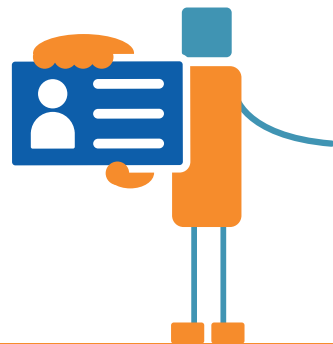
What is a carer passport?

A carer passport is a way of identifying a carer.

The passport will act as an indicator that someone is a carer so you are able to talk to them about how they are doing, discuss any concerns they may have and feel confident that they are someone you can share information with.

If your mental health trust offers this, it could also be an indicator for discounted parking and drinks from the café, or access to the wards at special times.

By having information about the carer and their situation in a centrally located place, the card will remove the need for the carer to re-tell their situation to many members of staff, and so staff can concentrate on asking how the carer is doing.



How can carers apply?

We suggest that your team carer lead/champion could be the first point of contact for a carer wishing to apply, however, any member of staff may support a carer to apply for a passport. The carer will complete an application form and their details will be centrally logged so all staff members are aware of their situation.

The card includes the carer's name, the name of the authorising staff member and date of authorisation.

At the point of application, the carer will be given a Carers Information Pack, be offered a referral to their local carers service and be offered a referral for a carers assessment.

Please contact the carer lead/champion 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]

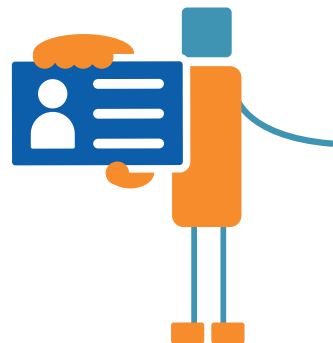
[Town/City]

[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

