



June 7th, 2017

Launch of Carers' Charter for South Tyneside and Sunderland

A Carers' Charter for South Tyneside and Sunderland will be launched in Carers Week, June 12th-18th.

South Tyneside and City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trusts will also unveil a specially-developed DVD which will be used to help train staff to recognise, value and support carers.

Carers Week annually raises awareness of caring and the challenges that carers face and recognises the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK. With three in four carers saying they do not feel that their caring role is understood or valued by their community, this year's theme is Building Carer Friendly Communities i.e. communities which support carers to look after their loved ones well, while recognising that they are individuals with needs of their own.

Ken Bremner, Chief Executive of both Trusts, said: "The importance of the role of carers cannot be under-estimated. The Charter recognises and values carers and allows them to make early and informed decisions about seeking practical and financial support. It especially looks at tackling inequality and social inclusion by identifying carers who are coping alone and making sure they know what help and support is available."

The charter emphasises the importance of: recognising and valuing carers, including young ones; working in partnership with them; signposting them to help and advice; involving them in future service developments, and involving them in decisions about the care provided by health staff to the people they care for.

South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust will launch Carers Week with an event on Monday, June 12th, 11am-2pm, in South Tyneside District Hospital's Alexander's restaurant. Local adult and young carers' groups will be there to promote their services. On Thursday, June 15th, there will be a tea party in the restaurant from 2pm to 4pm for carers of current Trust patients either in hospital or in the community.

City Hospitals Sunderland is holding an information event in the main concourse on Friday, June 16th, 12:30pm-2:30pm to raise awareness of the role of carers. Sunderland Carers Centre, The Stroke Association, Age UK and Sunderland People First will also be at the



event with contributions from CHS Delirium and Dementia Outreach Team, the Surgical Day Case Team and Care Co-ordinator, Sue Matheson. The Trust will also be promoting John's Campaign and the Carers' Passport, a scheme for carers of people with Dementia. By placing the individual needs of patients at the centre of their care, the hospital can make overnight facilities available for carers on request and extend visiting hours, in some cases to 24 hours a day.
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Pictured above: Ken Bremner, Chief Executive of South Tyneside and City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trusts, with the new Carers Charter

Issued on behalf of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust by Kay Jordan

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