

ACE National

Action for Carers and
Employment

Policy into Practice



What is Carers UK?

Leading national lobbying and
campaigning organisation of
and for carers

- lead partner in ACE
National

Carers Wales is part of Carers
UK



What do carers want?

- Better recognition
 - Financial security
 - Real opportunities to work
 - Support for their health and well-being
 - Inclusion in society
- the right to an ordinary life!



How many carers work and care?

- 80% of carers are of working age
- 1 in 8 people in the workforce is a carer
- 1.5 million are economically inactive



Why is this an issue for carers?

- 2 million people move in and out of caring each year
- 1 in 5 people give up work to care, with a long-term impact on pensions and poverty (EOC survey)



ACE National 1

- Funded by the ESF EQUAL Community Initiative Programme

AIMS

- To raise awareness of the issues facing carers who want to work
- To improve things for carers who want to return to, or remain in, work
- To have real impact on local and national policy on carers and work



Key outcomes 1

- Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004
 - Policy and Practice Guidance
 - ACE Resource Pack to support implementation
- *Learning for Living*
 - an accredited City and Guilds course for carers



Key outcomes 2

- **Employers for Carers**
 - website
 - benchmarking tool
 - case studies
- **Employer of the Year Awards**
 - Carers Award



Key outcomes 3

- All Party Group on carers at both Westminster and Assembly
- Extension of the right to request flexible working to carers
- EOC Parents and Carers Coalition
- EOC Investigation into part-time and flexible working:
 - *Britain's Hidden Brain Drain*



Key outcomes 4

- Training resources for:
 - local authorities
 - employers
 - working carers
 - unions
 - Jobcentre Plus (including national training event)



Key outcomes 5

Books

- *Carers and their Rights – the Law Relating to Carers*
- Research reports:
 - *Who Cares Wins: the Social and Business Benefits of Supporting Carers in the Workplace*
 - *Carers and Employment – a Longitudinal Study*



ACE Resource Pack

Who is it for?

- Professionals who work with carers
- Employers – including local and health authorities as employers

Get copies @:

www.carersuk.org



Next steps - ACE National 2

AIMS:-

- To identify and develop the alternative care services that enable carers to work
- To identify key issues for the social care sector
- To work towards the establishment of a national care strategy



'Success' for ACE National in the long term?

- Carers will be able to lead ordinary lives, including working lives.
- They will have real rights, real lives


