

DERBYSHIRE CARERS ASSOCIATION TO RECEIVE SHARE OF £6.8 MILLION TO BENEFIT PATIENTS

Derbyshire Carers Association is to get up to £348,000 over three years to test and develop innovative approaches to improve health and wellbeing, Care Services Minister Paul Burstow announced.

Voluntary sector organisations submitted funding bids to the Department of Health setting out how they could help their communities by improving care for thousands of vulnerable people.

The funding will help Derbyshire Carers Association to continue and expand their pilot Innovations Programme, allowing the Association to work in partnership with community hospitals and GP practices throughout Derbyshire in order to identify and support carers at the point of the diagnosis of the person they care for. This early intervention will reduce the risk of isolation for the carer and the likelihood of them developing stress-related health problems or financial difficulties.

Helen Robinson, Chief Executive of Derbyshire Carers Association, said “We are delighted to have been awarded funding allowing our organisation to continue and greatly expand our valuable work with community hospitals and GP practices. The concept at the heart of this project is that if carers are identified earlier and offered support, the health and wellbeing of both carers and those they care for, will be improved. We are grateful to the Department of Health for funding this important work”.

To celebrate this grant funding, Care Services Minister Paul Burstow held a round table with members of voluntary sector organisations including the Royal National Institute of Blind People, Cool2Care and the Council for Disabled Children.

Paul Burstow said

“This new funding will improve the lives of thousands of people across England, helping them to lead healthier and more independent lives. It is crucial that we continue to champion our voluntary organisations, because their expertise allows them to design and develop innovative solutions to the big challenges we face in health, public health and social care.

“These exciting projects are more than worthy of our support and I am delighted that the money will be spent on providing individuals and local communities with the tools to tackle health and wellbeing.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

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The money comes from the Department's Innovation, Excellence and Strategic Development (IESD) fund.