

Further information:

For information on the national policy partnership in England contact:

ACE National

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Local projects contact:

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CARERS UK

Carers UK

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CarersLine: 0808 808 7777

(open Monday-Friday, 10am-Midday, 2-4pm)

Minicom: 020 7251 8969

Website: www.carersonline.org.uk

Registered in England and Wales as Carers National Association.
Number 864097. Published in October 2002

CARERS UK

Action for Carers and
Employment
Promoting the inclusion of
carers in employment

ACE National Policy Partnership

ACE Employers Group (including BT, Centrica, HSBC,
Metropolitan Police, Nestor Healthcare, NHS, Tunstall
Group)

Business in the Community

Carers UK

Carers Wales

CBI

City and Guilds Affinity

Contact a Family

Crossroads - Caring for Carers

Department for Work and Pensions

Department of Health

Department for Trade and Industry

Equal Opportunities Commission

European Institute of Social Services

GMB

Hillcroft College

National Care Standards Commission

Parents at Work

Princess Royal Trust for Carers

UNISON



The ACE National Development Partnership is part
funded by the European Social Fund under the
EQUAL Community Initiative Programme

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Carers look after family, partners or friends in need of help because they are ill, frail or have a disability. The care they provide is unpaid.

Action for Carers and Employment (ACE National), led by Carers UK is an exciting and innovative partnership, aiming to address the barriers faced by carers who wish to work. The project, funded by the European Social Fund's EQUAL programme, will run from May 2002 to May 2005.

How will it do this?

It will develop and test this support in six local sites – Anglesey, Carmarthenshire, Kirklees, London, Sunderland and Surrey. Each site will deliver its activities through local partnerships – carers, carers centres, local authorities, local information, advice and guidance networks, local Learning and Skills Councils, Jobcentre Plus, training providers – to ensure that the support on offer is targeted appropriately.

Carers themselves will be involved in designing and developing project activities, which are expected to help around 2000 carers and former carers move towards training or work.

Each site will have a dedicated ACE project team working closely with Carers UK.

Nearly three and a half million carers juggle paid work and care – that is one in seven people in the workforce – and many have to reduce the hours they work or give up work altogether. Keeping a job, or returning to a job when caring has ended, can mean facing significant barriers such as:

- Loss of confidence and work skills
- Invisibility to mainstream services such as Jobcentre Plus
- Finding good quality, flexible and affordable alternative care
- Finding an understanding and flexible employer
- Bridging the gap between benefits and work

What will the project do?

The project will:

- Create a model for innovative partnerships which work at national and local levels and across private, public and voluntary sectors
- Develop a national programme of pre-vocational training – designed to build confidence and identify skills – for carers who want to train or work
- Promote individual support and guidance and work-related training for carers who want to work
- Promote and develop flexible alternative care services which enable carers to train and work
- Promote flexible employment policies and practices which enable carers to juggle work and care

What impact will this have?

The support developed in local sites will be mainstreamed through ACE National's policy partnership – which includes Government departments, training providers, care providers, employers, employers organisations, Trades Unions and voluntary sector organisations – to leave behind permanent gains for carers who want to work.

National partners will come together three times a year to take part in policy think tank events, designed to achieve the greatest possible impact on long-term policy and practice.

European links

ACE National will work with a European partner, F&M Power in Austria, to learn lessons from their work, to exchange information and to disseminate good practice.