



## Wolverhampton Carer Forum Fact Sheet

Unpaid care-givers save £119 billion a year. Each carer saves on average £18,473 a year. On this basis Wolverhampton carers save a staggering £532m, more than double the entire annual Wolverhampton City Council budget of £239m.

Earlier this year **Omega**, the National Association for End of Life Care ([www.omega.uk.net](http://www.omega.uk.net)), a registered charity based in the West Midlands, began helping Wolverhampton's army of over 26,000 unpaid carers to shape the support they receive, by having their say on important issues affecting them.

With financial assistance from Wolverhampton City Council, a Carer Forum has been set up in response to requests from carers to be more involved in services. At the first Forum event hosted by Omega, carers with more than 900 years of unpaid caring service between them attended.

The voice of Wolverhampton carers cannot be ignored.

### **The Wolverhampton Carer Forum will:**

- a. *Bring together and support the contribution of carers, without distinction on the basis of gender, race, political, religious or other opinions.*
- b. *Represent the views of carers on policies and services and other issues affecting their caring role, and ensure their voice is heard.*
- c. *Shape policy and service provision for carers in Wolverhampton.*
- d. *Work together, where appropriate, with other carer groups in the city.*
- e. *Receive and share information on services, activities and opportunities for carers in the area.*
- f. *Bring carer issues by representation to the Learning Disability Partnership Board and the Long-Term Impairment Partnership Board.*
- g. *Respect all carers, their cultural and religious needs and ensure all are treated with courtesy and dignity.*

Everything we do is driven by the needs of ordinary people caring for someone special.

Please don't feel you have to enter into any long-term commitment to make a difference. To find out who is involved and how you can get involved please turn over.

## Who is involved:

Forum members will regularly consult with Wolverhampton carers. The Forum is served by the following Officers:

<b>Chairperson</b>	Edward Bagley
<b>Vice Chairperson</b>	Shirley Crook
<b>Treasurer</b>	Robert Cole
<b>Secretary</b>	Janet Wood (ex officio)
<b>Publicity / Press Officer</b>	Patricia Bagley
<b>Learning Disability Partnership Board – Carer Representatives</b>	Edward Bagley Margaret Bradshaw
<b>Long-term Impairment Partnership Board – Carer Representatives</b>	Patricia Bagley Orioul Smallman

## How you can get involved:

- Attend an outreach and information sharing surgery.
- Come along and ask questions, meet other unpaid care-givers including busy people like you who might be trying to balance a caring role with work and family responsibilities.
- Join one of the Forums.
- Seek election as an Officer.
- Simply keep in touch.

You might also find it useful to attend a carer support group - or ask us to help you start up your own – or you could attend a friendly Omega Caring with Confidence session.

## Secretariat:

If you think you have something to offer and want to help make a difference, get in touch with Omega:

Phone: 0845 259 3163 (local rate)  
Email: [carers@omega.uk.net](mailto:carers@omega.uk.net)  
Freepost: Freepost RSGB-CYBY-HSCX  
Omega  
London House  
Town Walls  
Shrewsbury  
SY1 1TX

Omega has given an undertaking to serve unpaid care-givers in Wolverhampton and provides administrative support and guidance to Wolverhampton Carer Forums.

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