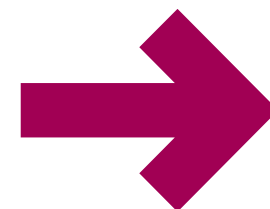


# The Importance of Carers A Policy Perspective

Rachel White  
Leadership Support Manager  
Patient Experience Team  
NHS England

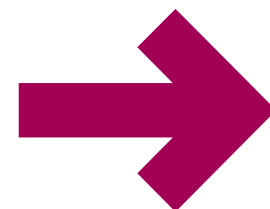
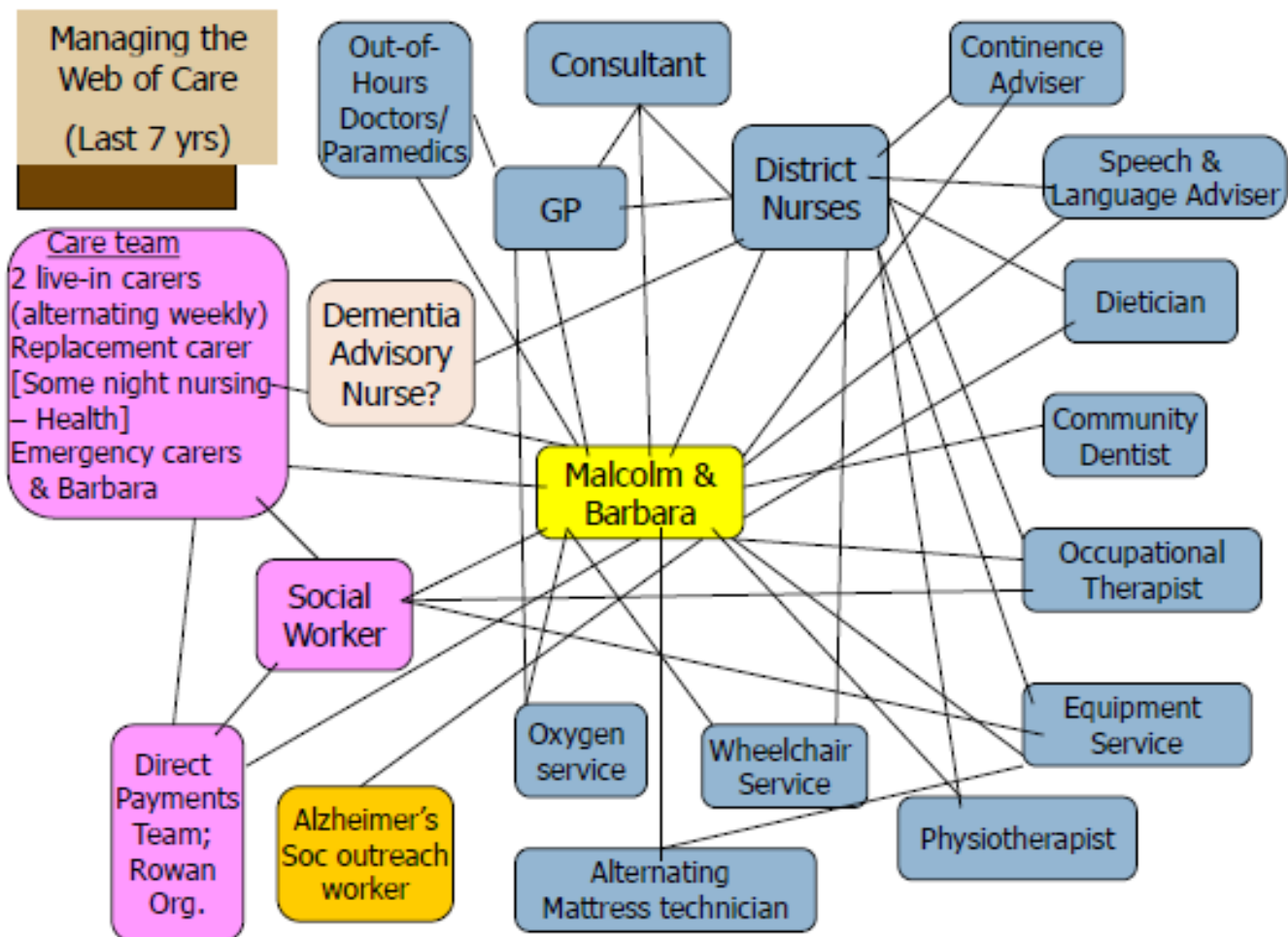
Hello my name is .....



# Carers in England

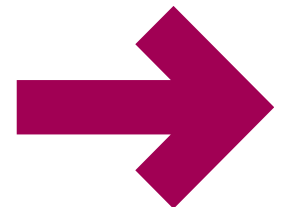
- There are around 5.5 million people in England who provide unpaid care for a friend or family member
- Between 2001 and 2011, the number of unpaid carers grew by 600,000 with the largest increase being in the unpaid care category where 50 or more hours of care are being delivered weekly - this equates to 1.4 million people providing this level of unpaid care per week
- Unpaid care has increased at a faster pace than population growth between 2001 and 2011 and an ageing population and improved life expectancy for people with long term conditions or complex disabilities means more high level care provided for longer
- Increasing hours of care results in the general health of carers deteriorating incrementally. Unpaid carers who provide high levels of care for sick, or disabled relatives and friends, are more than twice as likely to suffer from poor health compared to people without caring responsibilities, with nearly 21% of carers providing over 50 hours of care, in poor health





# What Carers say matters the most

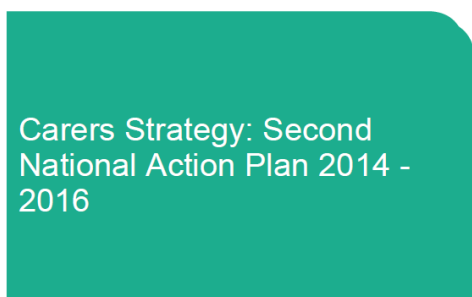
- Recognise me as a carer (this may not always be as 'carers' but simply as parents, children, partners, friends and members of our local communities);
- Information is shared with me and other professionals;
- Signpost information for me and help link professionals together;
- Care is flexible and is available when it suits me and the person I care for;
- Recognise that I also may need help both in my caring role and in maintaining my own health and well-being;
- Respect, involve and treat me as an expert in care;
- And treat me with dignity and compassion.



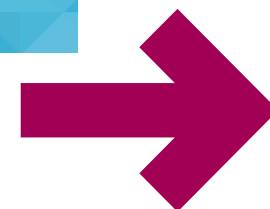
# Policy, Drivers & Opportunities

- Care Act
- Children's and Families Act
- Carers Strategy
- NMC & Vanguard
- Commitment to Carers
- 5YFV
- The Mandate
- Data ( 2011 Census )

HM Government



Care Act 2014

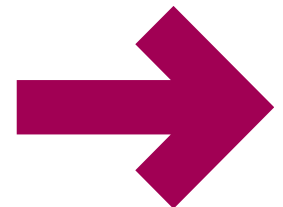


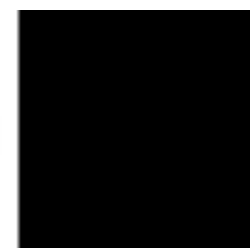
# Commitment to Carers

- Raising the profile of carers;
- Education, training and information;
- Service development;
- Person-centred, well-coordinated care;
- Primary care;
- Commissioning support;
- Partnership links; and
- NHS England as an employer

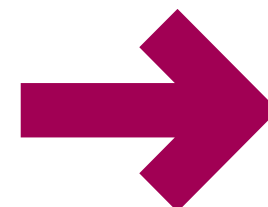
Commitment to Carers published May 2014 and Commissioning Principles for Carers published December 2014

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/pe/commitment-to-carers/>





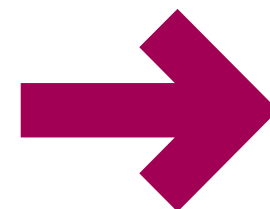
## Standing Commission on Carers (SCOC)





# National Palliative and End of Life Care Partnership

Association for Palliative Medicine; Association of Ambulance Chief Executives;  
Association of Directors of Adult Social Services;  
Association of Palliative Care Social Workers; Care Quality Commission;  
College of Health Care Chaplains; General Medical Council;  
Health Education England; Hospice UK;  
Macmillan Cancer Support; Marie Curie;  
Motor Neurone Disease Association; National Bereavement Alliance;  
National Care Forum; National Council for Palliative Care;  
National Palliative Care Nurse Consultants Group; National Voices;  
NHS England; NHS Improving Quality;  
Patients Association; Public Health England;  
Royal College of General Practitioners;  
Royal College of Nursing; Royal College of Physicians;  
Social Care Institute for Excellence;  
Sue Ryder and  
Together for Short Live

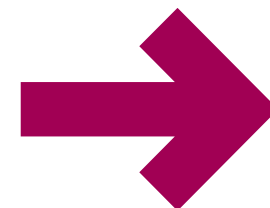




*“As organisations with experience of, and responsibility for, palliative and end of life care we have made a collective decision to act together to do all we can to achieve for everyone what we would want for our own families.”*

*Executive Summary: Ambitions for Palliative and End of Life Care*

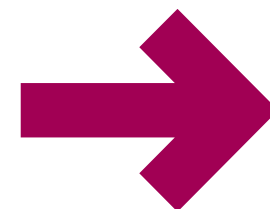
National Palliative and End of Life Care Partnership  
[www.endoflifecareambitions.org.uk](http://www.endoflifecareambitions.org.uk)





- Palliative and end of life care must be at the heart of an integrated approach to care and support
- We want to work collectively to make the care that surrounds dying, death and bereavement as good as possible, for all
- We need to set our collective sights on these six ambitions
- We ask you to designate a local lead, whether this is the Health and Wellbeing Board, Clinical Commissioning Group, or Local Authority, to lead and coordinate a process for working towards these ambitions.

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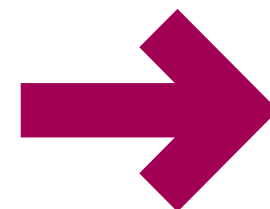


## Our overarching vision

*“I can make the last stage of my life as good as possible because everyone works together confidently, honestly and consistently to help me and the people who are important to me, including my carer(s).”*

*‘Every Moment Counts’ National Voices,  
National Council for Palliative Care and NHS England.*

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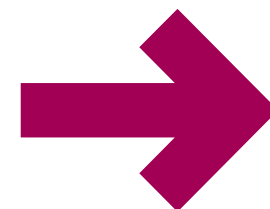
## Six ambitions to bring that vision about

- 01 Each person is seen as an individual
- 02 Each person gets fair access to care
- 03 Maximising comfort and wellbeing
- 04 Care is coordinated
- 05 All staff are prepared to care
- 06 Each community is prepared to help

*"I can make the last stage of my life as good as possible because everyone works together confidently, honestly and consistently to help me and the people who are important to me, including my carer(s)."*



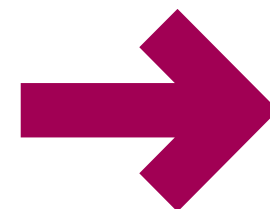
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## The foundations for the ambitions

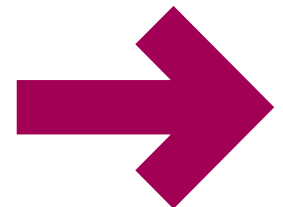


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# Involving, supporting and caring for those important to the dying person

- Families, friends, carers and those important to the dying person must be offered care and support
- They may be an important part of the person's caring team, if they and the dying person wish them to be regarded in that way
- They are also individuals who are facing loss and grief themselves.



# **‘Stories are the fire we carry to each other.’**

In Cormac McCarthy’s novel *No Country for Old Men*, Sherriff Bell recalls that his cowboy father would carry the embers from the fire of one camp to the next in an animal horn.

It was a tradition passed to the cowboys  
by the Native American Indians.

This important act had another meaning: to have hope and continue the quest, but also to maintain humanity.  
The fire carrier would hold a special position in the tribe  
and for their society.’

Bobette Buster - *How to tell your story so the world listens*

