

Dear Carer

This letter is intended to provide you with an update on the situation with the contract the Council has with Community Action Derby, which is delivered by Creative Carers. All contracts with the Council are time limited and the contract with Community Action Derby was due to end in August 2018. A contract extension was agreed until the 30th November. Community Action Derby are not in a position to accept any further contract extensions beyond this date, therefore their contract with the Council will end this month. We are aware that many of you value and use the services delivered under the contract and may be anxious about where you should go for support from December onwards. This letter is intended to provide you with information about the alternatives arrangements that you can access.

What services do we currently have for Carers?

The Council currently supports adult Carers who are supporting other adults in a number of ways:

- Directly by the Council in the form of social work assessments for them and/or their loved one; This can include arranging a Personal Budgets/ Direct Payment to meet individual support needs including short breaks; sitting services; and family breaks etc;
- Directly by Local Area Coordinators or from advice and information we provide as a Council through our Talking Points in communities;
- By Derby Direct, Derby Homes and the Healthy Housing Hub should Carers need general advice or help with housing matters, including accessing equipment or housing adaptations;
- Via the Council's Shared Lives cares or using organised respite to enable Carers to have a break from caring whereby their loved one is cared for temporarily by someone else – for example by care provided to them at home, on a supported holiday break or in a residential care home;
- By a commissioned service provided under a contract with Derbyshire Carers Association to help us deliver on our statutory duty to provide needs assessments, as well as providing more general information and advice;
- By a commissioned service provided under a contract with Making Space to help Carers whose loved one has Dementia;

- By a commissioned service with One Advocacy who can provide advocacy support for Carers or their loved ones;
- By a commissioned service provided under a contract with Richmond Fellowship (Derby City Life Links) to help Carers whose loved one has a mental health need;
- By Derby Direct, to identify if any discounts or exemptions apply with regards to Housing Benefit or Council Tax. Derby Direct can advise on a range of other Council services which may support Carers including refuse collection and gritting, telecare, support with housing and accessing a Blue Badge;
- Derby City Council fund health and wellbeing support through “LiveWell” and there is also free and discounted access to Council sports centres, leisure facilities and many arts venues for Carers when supporting loved ones;
- By helping Carers to access a range support for and training through the Adult Learning Service; the Winter Friends initiative; VSPA (Voluntary Sector Single Point of Access); other voluntary and community groups.

How can I access these?

We are working with Derbyshire Carers Association so that they are able to provide you with initial advice and information. Please contact them on Tel: 01332 200002 or by email - derby@derbyshireCarers.co.uk . They will be able to carry out a “Carers conversation” with you in the first instance and sign post or refer you to any of the above support mechanisms.

Alternatively, you can contact the Council directly on 01332 640000 and we will arrange for an assessment of your needs to take place. If you are already known to the Council, we can review your current situation with you in light of the services coming to an end through the arrangements with Community Action Derby/ Creative Carers.

We know that many of you will be disappointed that the service will no longer be available, however we hope that you will be able to access one of the alternatives listed in this letter, like many other Carers do already.

Thank for you for your patience at this time and for the support you have given to Community Action Derby and Creative Carers in recent years.

If you need any further information, please contact Adrian McNaney, Strategic Commissioning and Partnerships Officer on 01332 642752 or by email – Adrian.mcnaney@derby.gov.uk