



INDEPENDENT CHAIR
DUDLEY CARERS ALLIANCE
Overview of role

If you would like to discuss the role of independent chair further,
please contact

Nicola McGregor on 01384 813757 or
email Nicola.mcgregor@dudley.gov.uk)

Background

Most people in their lifetime are likely to be affected by or have caring responsibilities. The Census 2011 identified approximately 38,000 carers living within the Dudley borough, and 1,333 young carers. However, this figure is likely to be significantly larger as many people with caring responsibilities do not identify themselves as carers, often known as 'hidden carers'.

Key findings of the recent Survey of Adult Carers 2016/17 identified that:

40% of carers in Dudley struggled or found it difficult to access information and advice about support, services or benefits

66% of carers felt they had been involved or consulted as much as they wanted to be, in discussions about the support or services provided to the person they cared for

41% of carers felt they had as much social contact as they would like.

(Results from a population sample of 1100 with a total of 438 responses (40% response rate) - Survey of Adult Carers 2016/17).

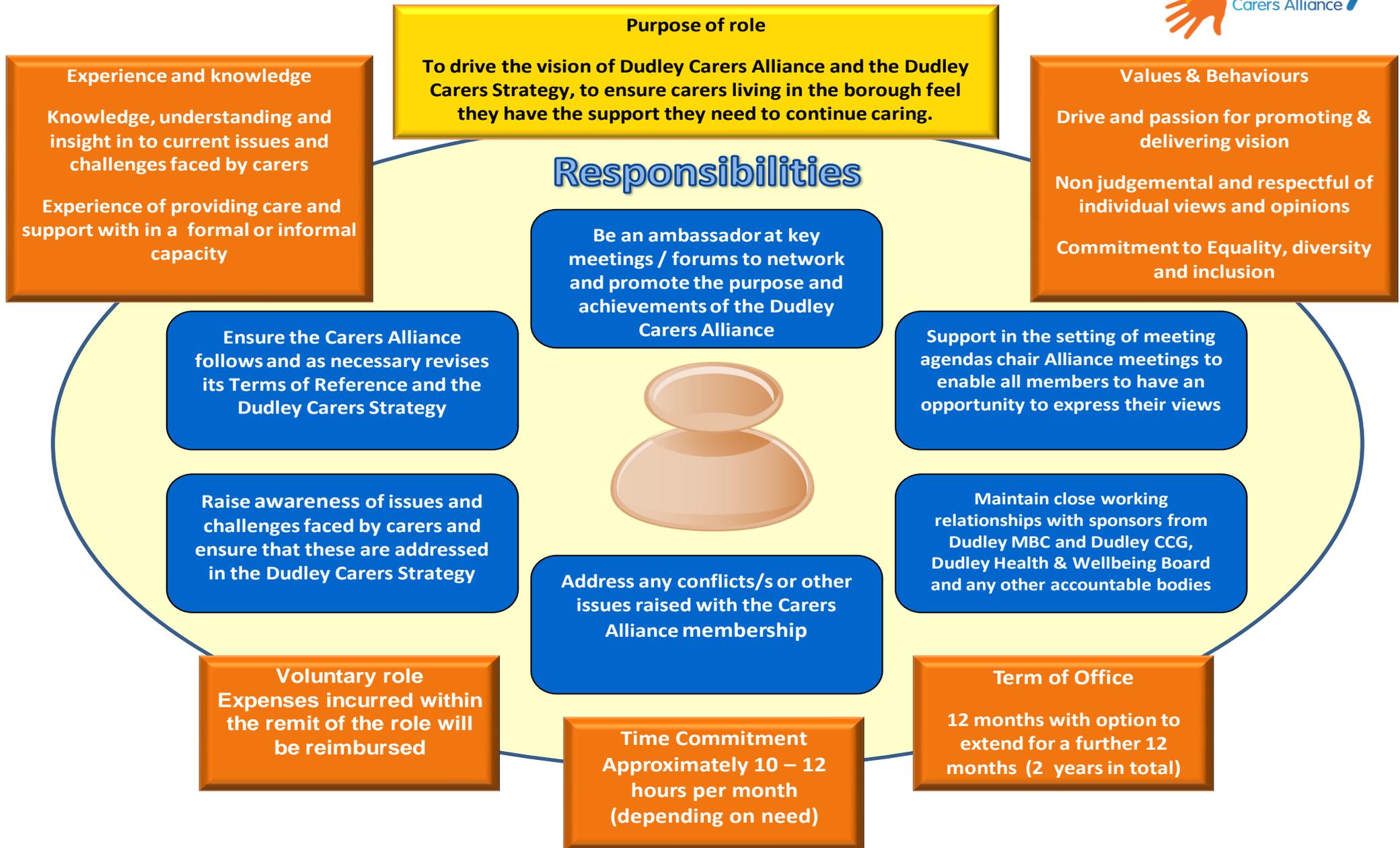
The Dudley Carers Alliance partnership was developed from the Dudley Carers Strategy Group in October 2015. The Carers Alliance was formed to bring together carers and key stakeholders from the statutory, private and voluntary sectors to provide a holistic approach to supporting carers across the borough. The purpose of the Alliance is to:

- enable discussion, consultation and networking with carers and key partners to develop, co-ordinate and monitor support services for carers
- provide a framework for ensuring that support for carers is embedded into local policies and strategies (i.e. Health & Wellbeing Strategy)
- oversee the co-development and delivery of a local Carers strategy (see appendix 1) and action plan with all members and partners taking responsibility as drivers of the carers agenda, to ensure successful implementation.
- work with all partners, including commissioners to support the development of a commissioning / action plan outlining strengths, weakness and gaps in current services
- ensure all carers, including 'hidden' or 'isolated' carers; or those carers who may language or communication difficulties have an opportunity have their voices, views and needs represented and put forward to the Health and Wellbeing Board, Adult Social Care and Commissioning Teams.
- keep carers and organisations who work with carers informed of changes of policy and local developments which are likely to impact upon carers.

Dudley Carers Alliance is sponsored and supported by Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council (MBC) and Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

To continue moving the partnership forward the Alliance would like to elect an independent chair/s to work alongside the local authority and Dudley CCG to provide a clear direction for the Carers Alliance in the delivery of its strategic priorities.

Role of Independent Chair - Summary



Purpose of role

We are looking to elect an individual/s who has drive and passion to deliver the vision of Dudley Carers Alliance and the Dudley Carers Strategy, to ensure carers living in the borough feel they have the support they need to continue caring.

Role responsibilities

As Chair/s you will

- act as an ambassador for Dudley Carers Alliance at key meetings, forums, to network and promote the purpose and achievements of the Alliance
- support in setting agendas and chairing of Alliance meetings, enabling all members to have an opportunity to express their views and ensuring decisions are reached in an open and timely manner
- ensure the Carers Alliance follows and as necessary revises its Terms of Reference, the Dudley Carers Strategy and work plan
- raise awareness of issues and challenges faced by carers and ensure that these are addressed in the Dudley Carers Strategy
- address any conflict/s or other issues raised within the Carers Alliance membership
- maintain close working relationships with statutory sponsors from Dudley MBC and Dudley CCG, Dudley Health & Wellbeing Board and any other accountable bodies.

Experience & knowledge

- Knowledge, understanding and insight in to current issues and challenges faced by carers
- Experience of providing care and support to an individual/s either in a formal or informal capacity
- Experience of, or awareness of, the strategic planning, to develop and deliver the vision.

Skills and attributes

- Effective communication, interpersonal skills with the ability to work effectively with a broad range of people.
- Strategic thinking with ability to see the 'bigger' picture' and facilitate decision making with an appropriate balance of leadership and involvement
- Skilled in bringing people together with the ability to control and direct a group effectively.
- Effective listening skills, have empathy and understanding of the caring role

Values

- Drive, passion, ambition for promoting and delivering the Carers Alliance's vision
- Proactively demonstrate a commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Non-judgemental and be able to respect individuals' views
- Time and commitment to effectively discharge the responsibilities of the post
- Willingness to undertake any training and activities that would benefit the role
- Committed to the principles of integrity, transparency and accountability
- A strong connection to Dudley with a commitment to enable carers to continue in their caring role.

Commitment to role

This is a voluntary role, with reimbursement of any expenses incurred within its remit.

The role of Chair can be jointly shared between two individuals with the agreement of Alliance members.

Time commitment - We envisage the time commitment for this role will be an average of 10 - 12 hours per month, (this may vary slightly depending on the need). In the event two individuals are elected as joint Chairs, these hours can be shared. However, each of the Chairs' must be able to attend at least four Carers Alliance meetings each year.

Term of Office - The term of office for the chair/s will be:

- 12 months with option to extend for a further 12 months (in agreement of Alliance members)
- An individual can serve two terms of office (maximum of 4 years) consecutively. After this period the individual must serve a minimum of 1 term out of office.
- The role can be carried out jointly (2 individuals) with the agreement of members

In the event the elected Chair/s wishes to stand down from the role during the term of office they must confirm their intention in writing to the Carers Alliance sponsors who will then inform the partnership members. A notice of two months is required (unless there are exceptional circumstances)

Conflicts of interest

Individual/s will be independent and not:

- associated with the CCG, Local Authority or other statutory agency, or be a trustee of an organisation where there could be a conflict of interest
- hold a political role.

Expressions of interest

We would like to invite anyone interested in taking on the independent chair role, to submit a written statement expressing why you feel you would be suitable for the role. Please include:

- Reasons for interest
- How you would drive the carers agenda and vision of the Alliance forward
- Any experience or knowledge you can bring to the role
- Whether you have a preference to take on the role on your own or jointly

(If you require support in writing and submitting a written statement please contact Nicola McGregor on 01384 813757 or email Nicola.mcgregor@dudley.gov.uk)

Please refer to the attached documents

- Dudley Carers Alliance Terms of Reference
- Dudley Carers Strategy Plan on A Page 2016 - 2018

Election process

Expressions of interest must be submitted in writing for the attention of

- Nicola McGregor, Dudley Carers Network, Brierley Hill Health and Social Care Centre, Venture Way, Brierley Hill, DY5 1RU OR
- Email carers.network@dudley.gov.uk

Closing date for Expressions of Interest to be submitted **4pm on Thursday 26th April 2018.**

The Chair/s will be elected by members of Dudley Carers Alliance

Depending on the number of expressions of interest submitted a maximum of 4 individuals will be shortlisted by the working sub group of the Carers Alliance members.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to speak at a Carers Alliance meeting on Tuesday 13th May 2018 about how as Chair they will drive the partnership forward and ensure the continued development and delivery of the Dudley Carers Strategy.

Carers Alliance members will then have the opportunity to vote on the candidates at the meeting. Members who are unable to attend will also have an opportunity to submit their vote to the Carers Network following the meeting.

Candidates will be informed of final vote 1st June 2018, and the successful candidate will be formally announced during Carers Week 2018



Dudley Carers Alliance: Having your say! Terms of Reference Summary



Dudley Carers Alliance

Brings together a range of people including carers, representatives from the Council, Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group, Dudley NHS Foundation, Dudley, Department of Work & Pensions, Healthwatch Dudley, and a range of carer support providers from the voluntary, community and private sectors

Purpose

- enable discussion, consultation and networking
- ensure support for carers is embedded into local policies and strategies
- co-develop and contribute to the delivery of the key priorities within the Carers Strategy
- raise awareness and profile of carers across the borough

All carers have an opportunity to influence current and future policies, practices and service delivery

Dudley Carers Alliance meets every two months at venues across the Dudley borough.

Anyone can come and sit and observe the meetings, they are also given a chance to have their say if they wish

Individuals can also email any questions they wish to raise to Nicola McGregor, Dudley Carers Network by emailing carers.network@dudley.gov.uk

Key priorities of Dudley Carers Strategy 2016 – 2018:

- early identification and recognition of carers
- supporting carers to realise and release their potential
- enabling carers to have a life outside of the caring role
- supporting carers to stay healthy and well
- support young carers to achieve their aspirations

Reference Documents:

Dudley Carers Alliance Terms of Reference
Dudley Carers Strategy 2016–2018 – Plan on a Page

For more information on Dudley Carers Alliance please contact:

Nicola McGregor, Carers Network.

Tel: 01384 818723 or

Email:

carers.network@dudley.gov.uk

Projects and initiatives both now and in the future will aim to deliver the key priorities reflected in the Carers Strategy Plan on a Page and include:

- Commission a Carers Health & Wellbeing Service to Support carers living in the Dudley borough
- Working with local GP's through Dudley CCG to raise carers and young carer awareness
- Work with Dudley NHS Foundation Trust to raise awareness of carers and young carers
- introduction of the a Carers Passport

Dudley Carers Strategy 2016 - 2018

Our vision - For carers of all ages to be recognised, valued and benefit from personalised support to meet their individual needs and aspirations, enabling them to maintain a balance between managing their caring responsibilities safely, and a life outside of caring

Our Aims



Our key priorities:

- Early identification and recognition of carers
- Supporting carers to realise and release their potential
- Enable carers to have a life outside of caring
- Support carers to stay healthy and well
- Support young carers to achieve their aspirations

What will change look like?

- Carers have a choice in services and activities they can access within their local community when they need it.
- Carers have support to enable them to look after themselves and build resilience and be more independent
- Carers are enabled to play a part in their local community and feel valued

How can we achieve this?

- Creative involvement of carers in local care & support planning
- Ensure young carers are supported to achieve positive outcomes during childhood
- Raise awareness & early identification of carers by primary & secondary healthcare staff
- Ensure that carers are aware of, and able to access a range of services to reduce harm from domestic abuse, substance misuse, homelessness and social isolation
- Develop short break and respite services which are flexible and meet the needs of the carer and the cared for
- Ensure carers know how to access carers needs assessments and receive support to improve health & wellbeing