

Short Steps

Information for Carers

Introduction

Hafal is funded by the Big Lottery Mental Health Measure Programme to provide advice, support and guidance to people using Hafal services on their employment, volunteering, education, and training needs.

Hafal supports carers of people recovering from serious mental illness across Wales to manage their caring responsibilities and to continue in work, education, or training. If you need any advice, support or guidance in these matters please contact:

Regional Employment Officers
Hafal
Suite C2,
William Knox House, Britannic Way
Llandarcy, NEATH
SA10 6EL
Tel: 01792 816600
Email: hafal@hafal.org

Regional Employment Officer
Hafal
5 Rhiw Road
Colwyn Bay
CONWY
LL29 7TF
Tel: 01492 534769
Email: northwales@hafal.org

In the leaflet we have included some useful information from Jobcentre Plus. If you wish to discuss any of these matters further please contact our Regional Employment Officers listed above.

The Government's Carers Strategy 'Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities' was published in June 2008. It set out the Government's short-term agenda and long-term vision for the future care and support of carers.

The Carer Strategy specifies 2018 as a date by which:

- Carers will be respected as expert care partners and will have access to the integrated and personalised services they need to support them in their caring role.
- Carers will be able to have a life of their own alongside their caring role. Carers will be supported to stay mentally and physically well and treated with dignity.
- Children and young people will be protected from inappropriate caring and have the support they need to learn, develop and thrive, to enjoy positive childhoods and to achieve against all the Every Child Matters outcomes.

Responsibility for delivery of these outcomes is shared between various government departments including:

Jobcentre Plus as part of the Department of Work and Pensions

The Carers Strategy contains a specific commitment for Jobcentre Plus to improve the help and advice available to carers wishing to enter or re-enter the labour market

- Care Partnership Managers (CaPM) in every Jobcentre Plus district
- Specialist training for Jobcentre Plus advisors who work with carers
- Carers to have access to appropriate employment programmes
- Funding for replacement care for those carers participating in Jobcentre Plus approved activities as part of a work plan.

The Care Partnership Managers:

- Act as a strategic focal point for local carer employer issues
- Build and maintain relationships with local carer support organisations
- Assess customer demand for support
- Work with other Jobcentre Plus partnership managers
- Ensure that Jobcentre Plus advisors have information

From 7th December 2009 Jobcentre Plus will provide improved access to employment support to more carers. This includes:

- On-going tailored advice for employment support
- Access to Jobcentre Plus approved activities
- Help with expenses, for example travel to interview costs, course costs, childcare costs and replacement care costs
- Financial assistance such as the £15.00 per week training premium.

From 7th December 2009 Jobcentre Plus will be able to provide help with the cost of replacement care for carers:

- Participating in Jobcentre Plus approved employment related training courses and activities
- Attending interviews with advisers, providers and employers

For further information on your rights as a carer in employment please see <http://www.hafal.org/hafal/pdf/publications/Carers%20in%20Employment.pdf>