

# Carers Careline

providing support for unpaid carers

## Newsletter



June 2026

### FUNDING CHALLENGES

You may have seen recent coverage in the Redditch Standard highlighting the funding challenges we are currently facing. Despite significant effort over the last months to secure new funding, we have been unsuccessful in a number of applications, missing out on over £110,000 of grant funding. While we still have several applications in progress, funding remains a pressing issue for the charity at this time.

#### Key updates:

- The charity is experiencing financial pressures and have reached a critical point for maintaining current operations.
- We are currently awaiting decisions on further applications totalling £50,000.
- We are carefully managing and stretching our remaining funds to sustain operations while we await grant outcomes.
- We are reaching out to the all our local contacts, businesses and the community for their help.
- We continue to submit new funding applications and remain hopeful that the situation will improve.

In the current climate, competition for grants and funding is extremely high, which is reflected in the challenges we've faced in securing the resources needed to sustain our services. For now, our focus is on maintaining stability and continuing to deliver support while we pursue every available funding opportunity.

Alongside our funding applications, we have been actively strengthening connections with local businesses and community organisations, drawing on the support of our wider network wherever possible. After 38 years of supporting unpaid carers in our community, we remain hopeful that we can navigate this challenging period and continue our vital work.

**We're very thankful for Redditch Borough Council's continued support through their VCS grant award. We have also just received positive news of funding: £5,000 from the William Cadbury Charitable Trust, £2,000 from the Hedley Foundation, a £1,000 donation from the Redditch Masonic Charity and a donation of £245 from the Santa Barbara Heights Charitable Trust. We are very grateful for their support and are hopeful of more in the coming weeks.**

### A WORD FROM THE TEAM

Over the past five years, following the pandemic, it has been a genuine privilege to rebuild, strengthen, and expand our services to continue supporting unpaid carers across Redditch. As we reflect on this journey, we wanted to take a moment to highlight some of the support we have been able to provide during this time:

- Welcomed and registered 119 new carers.
- Made 9,227 telephone support calls to check in, offer emotional support and help carers through difficult times.
- Received 1,323 calls from carers needing advice, reassurance and guidance.
- Sent 1,070 text messages and 2,624 emails to stay connected and make sure carers knew someone was there for them.
- Opened our doors for 1,133 drop-in visits.
- Connected 70 carers through our Carers Connect WhatsApp group reducing isolation and connecting them with the community.
- Made 264 appointments to help carers with online forms, benefit applications and practical advice securing:
  - \* 12 Attendance Allowance applications
  - \* 12 Blue Badge applications
  - \* 1 Carer's Allowance application
  - \* 4 Personal Independence Payment (PIP) applications

**Looking after emotional wellbeing has remained a huge part of our work too. During this time we have:**

- Referred 38 carers for counselling support
- Delivered 157 counselling sessions
- Referred 58 carers for respite breaks
- Funded 31 respite breaks so far, giving carers a much-needed opportunity to rest and recharge

We've continued to run our groups and at our events encouraged carers to come along with the person they care for. We've also engaged with many local organisations to present at our events helping carers feel connected not just to services, but to their wider community too.

We know that being a carer can sometimes feel lonely and overwhelming, which is why we remain committed to making sure carers know they are seen, valued and never alone. We are incredibly proud of what we've achieved together and hope to continue supporting carers in our community for many years to come.

*Erica, Becky & Nat*



Drop-In: Monday-Wednesday 10.30am-12.30pm  
Room 1, Ecumenical Centre  
Evesham Walk  
Redditch, B97 4EX  
Call: 01527 66177 Mon-Thurs 10-1.30pm

Email: [info@carerscareline.co.uk](mailto:info@carerscareline.co.uk)  
Web: [www.carerscareline.co.uk](http://www.carerscareline.co.uk)  
Facebook: [carers careline](https://www.facebook.com/carerscareline)  
Instagram: [carerscareline](https://www.instagram.com/carerscareline)  
X: [@carers careline](https://twitter.com/carerscareline)



## CARING JOURNEYS



**Carers Careline have been supporting unpaid carers in the local community for over 38 years and have been present through many individuals caring journey's. Here's what one of our carers have said about the support from Carers Careline has meant to them:**

*I can't remember how I found out about Carer's Careline, but it must have been at least 9 years ago. I was at a really low point both physically and mentally. Mom had dementia and Dad insisted, despite his own frailty, to look after her at home which was some 30 miles away from me. As an only child with no other close family I was the only support they had. My own life was disintegrating with a failed relationship, a business I was forced to wind down, two teenage sons to support and a drastically reduced income. I seemed to just about cope but looking back I am not sure how. In hindsight I now know that the Carer's Careline probably helped more than I ever realised at the time.*

*I think my introduction may have been via "A Dementia Awareness" workshop I saw advertised somewhere that I signed up to and attended. Carers Careline helped me in so many ways. They dispersed all my self-doubts. They confirmed that what I was doing instinctively when with Mom was the right thing. They gave me strength to deal with the heartache of it all by meeting others at different stages in their tragic journey with loved ones. They also gave me practical advice and guidance and an opportunity to share my fears with someone who was not so personally involved. After that I attended a series of workshops providing advice on legal issues such as power of attorney and wills, funding care and benefits. I also attended carer meetings which provided opportunities to meet other carers and talk to people who understood the issues and pressures. All this helped me to recognise and accept that I was actually a carer and though this was my current role in life it did not mean that I was less me, that my life still counted and that I could reach out for help.*

*One of the most simple but so effective services the Carer's Careline provided was a phone call to check how I was doing. The call did not last long as I was always too busy to "chat" but to have a friendly voice asking after my own welfare (and not of those for whom I cared) on a regular basis was really comforting and made me feel less alone.*

*As time passed Mom was admitted into a care home and my life became more stable. I got a part-time job and was more able to cope. I kept in touch with Carer's Careline but did not need them to the same degree but felt a tremendous sense of gratitude and respect for all that they had done for me and continued to do for others. Consequently I was only too happy to step forward when they circulated an advert from Heart of Worcestershire College in Redditch asking for volunteers to work with the training and development of social work students as I saw it as an opportunity to give something back.*

*So around the autumn time of 2017 I attended a special meeting of the carer's group at Redditch Ecumenical Centre where I and other willing carer volunteers were told about the Social Work Advisory Group (fondly known as "SWAG") run by Heart of Worcestershire College in Redditch. I really was not sure what to expect but I am so pleased that I got involved and that Carer's Careline provided this opportunity.*

*Mom died at Christmas 2017 but Dad continued to need care. I managed to move Dad from West Bromwich to live in a flat closer to me. He was reasonably independent but needed my daily support and care including food shopping/cooking/laundry and general wellbeing. Being a daily carer limits your life and the support I got from Carers Careline was so helpful and made me feel less alone. They encouraged me to attend the writing classes they organised where I met others. Dad lived until 95 and has been passed some 3years now. They helped me deal with my grief as having dedicated so much of my life to looking after him I was so very lost when he was no longer around. Thank you all, Joy*


**The role of an unpaid carer is rarely a journey with a known destination or an end date in sight. In our experience, these journeys often span many years, evolving as needs change. At Carers Careline, we exist to support every individual path, providing compassionate care tailored specifically to the person behind the role.**

*Carer C came to us in 2011, her mum sadly passed away at the age of 101. "I joined Carers Careline 15 years ago and throughout that time it has helped me to care for mum with the best support and advice I needed to help me on my caring journey. The team worked so hard to source and provide all the help they could in ways I would never have known about or be able to do alone, nor have the time to do so. They were always there at the end of the phone to provide practical and emotional support, especially as mum's care needs grew greater. Thank you Carers Careline - a valuable and much needed service."*



**It's Carers week 8-14th June.** Carers Week is an annual UK campaign that raises awareness of unpaid carers, celebrates their contributions, and highlights the support available to people who care for family, friends, or neighbours with health, disability, mental health, addiction, or age-related needs. It also helps people recognise themselves as carers and access support.

## DIARY DATES - JUNE 2026

When	Organised by	Activity	Detail	Where
Monday 8th June 10:00-11:00am	Carers Careline	Care for Coffee? (Group) Book with one of the team	Join Nat for a "natter" at the Library in meeting room 2 for a catch up and a coffee or cuppa.	Redditch Library Market Place B98 8AR
Tuesday 9th June 9:30-12:00pm	Maple View Medical Practice	Drop-In Session  Come along for information on a wide range of subjects	We're joining the Maple View Medical Practice team along with representatives from Workwell, Social Prescribing, Carers & Communities, Citizens Advice and Act on Energy.	Maple View Medical Centre Tanhouse Lane B98 9AA
Monday 29th June 2:00-3:30pm	Carers Careline	Bereavement Group (Support Group) No need to book	If you have been, or know someone else who has been bereaved recently, come along to this group.	Ecumenical Centre
<b>DON'T FORGET OUR NEXT EVENT!</b>		Summer Cream Tea 	Come join us for our summer cream tea with warmed scones, clotted cream and jam. We will be joined by speakers from Dial-a-ride, Shopmobility and Lifeline. Carrie from AOK will also be joining us. The person you care for is very welcome to join us too.	Ecumenical Centre
Tuesday 30th June 1:00-2:30pm	Carers Careline			

### Regular weekly local activities

Tuesdays 10:00-12:00pm	Reach CIC	Golden Gatherings	Lunch club and activities including quizzes and games.	The Link Unit 18 Winyates Centre B980NR
Wednesdays 10:00-12:00pm	Frhens woodlandelectrical@btinternet.com	Frhens No need to book - donations welcome	A friendly support network for women. Providing activities, trips and get togethers.	Ecumenical Centre
Tuesdays 10:00 -12:00pm  Wednesdays 10:00 -12:00pm  Thursdays 10:00 -12:00pm  Fridays 10:00 -12:00pm  Saturdays 10:00 -11:00pm	Healthy Worcestershire 01905 928185 or 0800 772 0307	Free activities and topics  Call to book or turn up on the day	A free service to help improve your strength and balance, support your mental health, and provide social activities.	Sandycroft Centre B98 7DH  Abbeydale Community Club B98 8JE  Oakenshaw Community Centre B98 7YB  Willow Trees Community Centre B98 9JG  Batchley Community Centre B07 6PD

## DIARY DATES - JULY 2026

Monday 6th July 10:00-11:00am	Carers Careline	Care for Coffee? (Group) Book with one of the team	Join Nat for a "natter" at the Library in meeting room 2 for a catch up and a coffee or cuppa.	Redditch Library Market Place B98 8AR
Monday 27th July 2:00pm-3:30pm	Carers Careline	Bereavement Group (Support Group) No need to book	If you have been, or know someone else who has been bereaved recently, come along to this group.	Ecumenical Centre

Don't forget our Telephone Support or Carers Connect Services. We can schedule a regular support call, email or text or you can join our carers WhatsApp group. If you would like additional contact or support, call one of the team on 01527 66177. Our office hours are 10:00-1:30pm Monday to Thursday.