

## **Swindon & District Branch**

### **Carer Support**

Following a success Grant Application from the Wiltshire Community Foundation to finance the first two years of Carer Support, the Swindon & District Branch is pleased to announce the launching of a Respite Programme to help support our Carers. This grant is specific for and allows us to fund 300 hours of respite per annum. If successful and funds or grants permit we hope to add to the yearly total of funded hours.

#### **How it will work:**

The aim of the programme is to provide a secure facility where the person being cared can be left for short periods of time to allow the carer (the client) time to shop, meet a friend for a coffee and chat or just some time to themselves.

The 300 hours equates to 25 hours a month available for carers to share. This would allow 8 carers about 3 hours in a month. It is difficult to judge at this early stage until demand is known. As mentioned previously it may be possible to increase the total hours available.

Respite will be provided by Hop Skip & Jump (HSJ) who offered this service to our Branch and it will commence on Thursday 9 February 2017 between 9 am and 1pm. HSJ are located at Upper Shaw Ridge, Ridge Green, Shaw, Swindon SN5 5PU and they will hold an open morning on Thursday 19 January 2017 between 9am and 1pm The Centre Supervisor is Clarrissa Legg and has previously worked in a Nursing Home that had residents with Parkinson's.

To register your interest to use this service please contact our Branch Welfare Officer, Keith Cooper on 01793 871848. Keith will advise HSJ of you eligibility. He will also send you HSJ forms to be completed with name and details of the person being cared for, including emergency contact details and contact number. There will also be a medication form to complete and the times medication has to be taken. If the person being cared for has the ability to self- medicate and keep their medication on their person to safeguard others, they will be allows to do so. Full details regarding medication are on the medication form provided. You will need to take the completed forms with you on the first visit to HSJ.

While at HSJ tea will be provided and activities arranged for those who choose to participate.

To book a place after completing the forms contact HSJ on 01793 873098 stating it is for Thursday Parkinson's Respite. You will be allowed up to 3 hours free a month, all at once or split for different dates during that month. If demand is high it may be necessary to limit spaces to ensure everyone has an opportunity to use the service. If spaces are free due to all 25 hours not being used additional space can be allocated on a first come first served basis. If the service is cancelled by the carer (client) of the cared for person less than 24 hours before it is due to commence, the full cost will be charged to the client by HSJ. (No charge will be made in the event of an emergency)

It is important that the carer picks up the person in respite on time.

If you have used up your monthly allowance and still wish you use the service, the cost is £14 per hour, provided space is available and payable to HSJ.

Dave Logan  
Branch Chair