

## **Swindon & District Branch**

### **Carer Support - Respite Programme Enhancement**



Supported by



The Parkinson's Swindon & District Branch "Thursday Parkinson's Respite" to help support carers of people affected by Parkinson's that started in February is being enhanced and improved. The grant from the Wiltshire Community Foundation has been added to by a further grant from Nationwide Building Society and funds raised for carer support by the Kentwood Show Choir. This additional funding will allow us to:

- Increase the yearly funder free respite hours from 300 to 405pa.
- Allow carers to book the full 4 hours available on Thursdays rather than just the current 3 hours (9am to 1pm) **immediately**
- Allow us to provide a transport service to get the person being cared for to/from the Respite Centre at Hop, Skip & Jump **from 23<sup>rd</sup> March.**

There will be a nominal charge of £5 for the return trip if transport is required payable to the driver at the time of pick up. This enhancement offers 4 hours of free respite with transport for just £5.

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

The aim is to provide a secure facility where the person being cared can be left for short periods of time to allow the carer time to shop, meet a friend for a coffee and chat or just some time to themselves. Respite is provided by Hop, Skip & Jump every Thursday between 9 am and 1pm. They are located at Upper Shaw Ridge, Ridge Green, Shaw, Swindon SN5 5PU. The Centre Supervisor Clarrissa Legg has previously worked in a Nursing Home with residents who had Parkinson's.

To register please contact your Branch Welfare Officer Keith Cooper on 01793 871848. Keith will advise Hop, Skip & Jump of you eligibility. He will also send you forms for completion with name and details of the person being cared for, including emergency contact details, medication, dietary needs and a questionnaire about what their interests are. If Keith is on holiday then please contact the person on the telephone number advised on Keith answer phone. **Please note that over the Easter holiday period the service will not be available on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April**

If the person going into respite has the ability to self-medicate and keep their medication on their person to safeguard others, they will be allowed to do so. Full details regarding medication are on the medication form provided. You will need to take the completed forms on the first visit to Hop, Skip & Jump. While in Respite refreshments will be provided and activities arranged for those who choose to participate.

To book a place after completing the forms including booking transport contact Hop, Skip & Jump on 01793 873098 stating it is for Thursday Parkinson's Respite. You will be allowed up to 4 hours free and transport if required. If demand is high it may be necessary to limit bookings to ensure everyone has an opportunity to use the service. However if spaces are available, unused additional hours can be allocated free on a first come first served basis. It is important that the carer picks up the person in respite on time. If you have used up your free monthly allowance and there are no unused hours left but still wish you use the service, the cost is £14 per hour provided space is available and payable to Hop, Skip and Jump.