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Editor: [Sacha Kallaur](#)

**irwinmitchell** (IM)  
solicitors

Irwin Mitchell is proud to sponsor the Doncaster Carers Newsletter

## Census 2011

The 2011 UK census showed that there were 33,383 carers living in Doncaster, a 5% increase from 2001. The population of Carers in Yorkshire came out at 569,038; an increase of 10% since the 2001 census, whilst the total population of carers in the UK stands at 6,440,713 an increase of 10% since 2001.

Carers in Doncaster contribute 692.1 million towards the UK economy, with all Carers in the UK contributing an economic value of 118 billion.

This information was extracted from the UK 2011 census and provided by Carers UK.

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## Carers Rights Day 2012 30th November

### Three steps to knowing your rights as a carer

Caring for an ill or disabled loved one can be tough enough without having to fight to find and access financial and practical support. That is why Carers UK has produced a new version of **Looking After Someone? A guide to carers' rights and benefits – a comprehensive guide to carers' rights.**

Here is a taster, giving the top three steps every carer should take to start to access support:

1. **Get a benefits check:** Carer's Allowance is the main carers' benefit – offering a small income now and National Insurance contributions to contribute towards your State Pension if you have given up work to care. But even if you can't get Carer's Allowance you should make sure you get a full benefits check. Carers often end up paying for things for the person they care for – so a benefits check can also ensure that the right disability or older people's benefits are being claimed. Other support might include council tax discounts, tax credits or help with fuel costs.
2. **Check if you can get practical support:** Carers are entitled to a carer's assessment from their local council which could lead to them or the person they are caring for getting social care services to help with caring. Carers might even get different kinds of help if the person who needs care refuses support, and the assessment should also let carers know about other sources of support like carers' groups, disability and older people's groups in the area.
3. **Make the most of the technology out there which can help:** Many councils provide telecare and telehealth services – equipment which can monitor risks for person being cared for (like falls or forgetfulness) which can help carers get out of the house, get a good night's sleep or even to juggle work and care. Carers should ask their council if they provide this, and even if they don't carers should ask why not and encourage their council to look into it! Many carers also find carers online forums a huge source of support – Carers UK's forum is at <http://forum.carersuk.org>

Carers can order free copies of the full guide from Carers UK by calling 0800 808 7777 or visiting [www.carersuk.org](http://www.carersuk.org).

### DPfC Celebrate Carers Rights Day

To celebrate Carers Rights Day DPfC has teamed up with The Talking Shop on the High Street. We will be at The Talking Shop on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November from 9am-4pm. Why not drop in to see us and find out what Doncaster's Carers Centre can offer you.

On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December our Open House Session will celebrate Carers Rights Day. There will a Bring and Buy Sale, Therapies, Information, and a light lunch available (small charge for lunch).

## Free flu jab for carers

Did you know that if you are in receipt of a carer's allowance, or you are the main carer for an elderly or disabled person you are entitled to a free flu jab.

As a carer, you cannot afford to get the flu, because it would put the person you care for at risk and stop you from being able to look after them properly.

The flu vaccine is offered free of charge to people who are at risk to ensure that they are protected against catching flu and developing serious complications.

To get your free flu jab you should speak to your GP and tell them you're a carer, explaining your concerns for the welfare of the person you're looking after if you should fall ill, your GP will decide whether you need a flu jab based on this information.

### Gardening Services For Hire

(decorating service also available)

- Lawn mowing
- Hedge Cutting
- Strimming
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- Jungle busting
- Any other odd jobs

Competitive rates

Please call or text: 07563 721998  
and ask for Shaun

Friendly service, reliable and trustworthy. I always  
clean up and provide service with a smile!

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monthly service available.



Parents and Professionals working together

### Route 2000's 9<sup>th</sup> Information Day

#### "Transition and Personalisation – Looking to the Future"

Route 2000 is holding its ninth Information Day for parents, carers and professionals who work with children with disabilities. The event, supported by the South Yorkshire Centre for Inclusive Living (SYCIL), will take place on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2012 at Castle Park, Armthorpe Road, Doncaster from 9:00am to 3:00pm and will celebrate the International Day of Disabled People 2012.

The personalisation agenda puts the people who are in receipt of a service at the centre of the funding for that service. As Doncaster introduces person-centred approaches to transition and individual budgets, Route 2000 explores what this means for children and young people approaching adulthood.

Our Information Day to be opened by Chris Pratt, Director of Children and Young People's Service offers presentations on aspects of personalisation and workshops looking at transition and emotional well-being, financial independence and personal budgets, social independence and educational issues.

There will be a performance by young people from Stone Hill School and information stands to visit over the lunch break with plenty of time to meet and chat with other parents and professionals.

The Route 2000 Group consists of local parents of children with disabilities and professionals with an interest in childhood disability who work together to bridge the information gap, putting families, carers and children on the right track.

The group hopes you will come along to learn from and enjoy the talks and workshops provided on the day. A flyer and registration form can be downloaded from our website [www.route2000.org.uk](http://www.route2000.org.uk). Alternatively please telephone the Office Services Manager at SYCIL on 01302 892949.

## Government turns down private members bill

Carers Trust express disappointment that the Government has refused to support a Private Members' Bill designed to improve identification of carers and improve access to services to support carers and disabled people. Carers Trust had supported the bill along with 28 other national organisations. The Bill proposed the following changes:

- Local authorities would provide sufficient supply of social care services including social care services for disabled people and support for carers who wish to work or go into education
- NHS bodies would have to identify carers
- Schools to identify and support young carers
- Further and higher education establishments to identify and support young carers



## What is Doncaster Clinical Commissioning Group (DCCG)

The Doncaster Clinical Commissioning Group (DCCG) is a formal sub-committee of the NHS South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw board.

We are a clinically led committee, which is working alongside NHS Doncaster to effectively and efficiently commission health services for the people of Doncaster. We came together as a group, following the Government's 'Liberating the NHS' white paper, to represent patients of Doncaster with a single voice as clinical commissioners.

The membership of DCCG includes all 44 GP practices in Doncaster; however we operate as one committee where two GP members represent each of the five locality areas across Doncaster. Each locality is made up of several practices, the members of DCCG, who meet on a regular basis to discuss health issues relating to their area and the DCCG decision making process. As a DCCG committee we have three main duties on behalf of the practices; to formulate strategy, ensure accountability and create a positive organisational culture.

The Clinical Commissioning Groups are required to establish a Governing Body whose membership will include two lay representatives. One will be responsible for the oversight of governance (including financial governance) with the other lay member taking responsibility for public and patient engagement.

DCCG does not have a legal standing but has been given delegated responsibility for budgets, by NHS South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw that pay for healthcare for around 300,000 people in Doncaster. We have an ambition to be solely responsible for allocating over £550 million each year from April 2013.

Our purpose is to ensure that by April 2013 there is a Clinical Commissioning Group accredited by the new NHS Commissioning Board able to provide services that improve health and reduce health inequalities in the borough.



### Rosie Winterton Visits DPfC Carers Centre

On 26<sup>th</sup> September Rosie Winterton joined us for a coffee at the Open House morning session at DPfC Carers Centre.

Rosie spoke about her views of Carer issues and invited Carers to speak candidly about their experiences of being a Carer and the services available to Carers in Doncaster. The discussion was very lively, and moved on to include a wide range of topics, affecting the general public on both a national and local level.

## Carers Allowance and Universal Credit

Publication of the government's welfare reform bill confirms that carer's allowance will remain outside of the universal credit, the government was considering drawing carers allowance into the new universal credit due to start phasing in next April, however carers allowance will remain a non-means tested benefit.

Carers who already receive means-tested benefits such as income support or jobseekers allowance will be moved onto the Universal Credit and some families are facing major reforms and, in some cases, reductions to disability benefits, these include some 250,000 carers who are currently in receipt of means tested benefits, the remaining carers not claiming means tested benefits in the UK will be exempt from next year's universal credit reforms.

**This Space  
Could Be  
Yours!**

**Call DPfC Carers  
Centre on 01302  
637566 for  
further details**



**Contact us:**

Tel: 01302 637566  
Mobile: 07984 119117

Email: [dpfc@doncastercarers.org.uk](mailto:dpfc@doncastercarers.org.uk)  
Doncaster Partnership for Carers (DPfC) was formed in the early 90,s under the name of PEACE by a group of carers who came together for mutual support.

We now provide a range of support services for carers living in Doncaster. When we became a Company Limited by Guarantee in 1999 our name was changed. But we continue to be a carer led organisation.

DPfC aim to empower and encourage carers in all aspects of their caring role by offering a range of emotional and practical support services

If you are a Carer living in the Doncaster area we can support you in a number of ways:

- Advocacy
- Carers Consultation
- Emotional Support
- Information and Advice
- Social Outing and Breaks
- Training and Self Development

**Find us at:**

DPfC Carers Centre  
The Carers House  
2 Regent Terrace  
South Parade  
Doncaster  
DN1 2EE  
[www.doncastercarers.org.uk](http://www.doncastercarers.org.uk)

**Every Wednesday DPfC Carers Centre Hosts Open House**

**10am - 3pm**

Carers are invited to come and spend time at the house where they can have a cuppa and a chat with other carers, enjoy some lunch, find out what's happening in and around Doncaster and join in after lunch activities

**Telephone Befriending**

Do you feel isolated?  
Need someone to talk to?  
If so, our befriending line is here to support you.  
Befriending could help reduce the feeling of social isolation, give the Carers Centre a call to find out more

**Advocacy**

We can provide support at assessments, case reviews, assistance to access funds/services or whenever you need a friend or supporter

**DONCASTER CARERS FORUM**

The Carers Forum meets monthly on the Fourth Tuesday of the month at DPfC Carers Centre



Next Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> November 1pm – 2.30pm

Articles printed in the Doncaster Carers Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the view of Doncaster Partnership for Carers Ltd. **PLEASE NOTE:** That whilst every care has been taken to provide accurate up-to-date information, no responsibility can be accepted for error or omissions in this issue, neither does the inclusion of any service imply any kind of recommendation.

**DPfC Carers Centre Opening Hours**

Tues - Thurs 9.30am - 4pm

**DPfC Enquiry Line**

Tel: 01302 637566

Mon-Thurs 9.30am-1pm

Except for bank holidays.

Out of hours we have an answer machine for you to leave a message



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