

# Carers Network bulletin

November 2024

The aim of this current awareness bulletin is to provide a digest of recent guidelines, reports, research and best practice.

## **2 million older people now have some unmet need for social care**

This [report from Age UK](#) finds older people are often struggling due to insufficient access to high quality NHS treatment, as well as social care, and that the system is currently under-prepared for population ageing.

## **Key facts and figures about adult social care from the King's Fund**

What is social care? How many people deliver social care? How much does social care cost individuals and the state? The King's Fund deal with hundreds of enquiries every year. [Here are answers to some key questions that have been frequently or recently posed.](#)

## **What are unpaid carers and who do they provide care for?**

Unpaid carers or informal carers – anyone who provides care, unpaid, for a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction and cannot cope without their support – play a key role in the health and care system. [Here the King's Fund unpack](#) who is likely to be an unpaid carer, how often care is provided, who people care for and how care is funded.

## **What's it like getting help with health costs?**

The NHS offers support for people on low incomes to help with care costs. [Healthwatch look at how easy it is to access this help and how it can be improved.](#)

## **What proportion of NHS staff are carers?**

Being a carer can have a significant impact on someone's ability to work, so what did the most recent NHS Staff Survey reveal about how many NHS staff are also carers? [The Nuffield Trust explores the findings.](#)

Created by Lesley Firth, Library & Information Specialist at United Lincolnshire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. If you have any questions or feedback please email [lesley.firth@ulh.nhs.uk](mailto:lesley.firth@ulh.nhs.uk)