

Denbighshire County Council

Role Description - Carers Champion

Accountability

To the Full Council

Role, purpose and activities

1. To act as a strong strategic leader on raising and promoting issues affecting Carers.
2. To argue, support and defend the concerns, issues and needs of Carers in the Councils' area.
3. To gain an understanding of the needs of Carers across all service user groups, and to share this with Member colleagues. This may necessitate regular contact with Carers.
4. To raise awareness (amongst fellow Elected Members) of the issues facing Carers, and the implications of these for Social Services.
5. Wherever possible, in conjunction with the relevant Lead Member, highlight the needs of Carers, and to act as a Champion within the Council with a view to ensuring that the Council responds to these needs appropriately.
6. To familiarise him/herself with the range of services and organisations available to support Carers locally.
7. To ensure the needs of Carers are and remain a priority in the Councils' work. As a spokesperson to keep issues at the forefront of debate; raising awareness amongst fellow elected members on such issues and the implications of these for the Council.
8. To promote the wider local democracy in the involvement, participation and engagement of Carers in the planning and reviewing of all aspects of a local authority's work, including service delivery and policy development.
9. To keep up to date with developments in local, regional and national strategies, and any legislative changes in regard to Carers, as they occur.
10. To keep up to date with any changes to policy or procedures relating to Carers and to attend relevant training.
11. To become a standing member of the multi-agency Denbighshire Carers Strategy Group.
12. To attend local key events for Carers, eg Carers Rights Day Carers week events and conferences.
13. To attend regional and national events in relation to Carers, where possible, eg conferences, meetings and forums.
14. Where required, in conjunction with the Lead Member (if relevant) and the Councils' Communications team, to engage with the media.

15. To consider the roles of Older People's Champion and Learning Disability Champion and its impact on this role and whether to work together where appropriate.

Person Specification

Within the Council

Understanding of the area of interest being championed in terms of council strategies and policy, good practice, improvement and national agendas and the needs of the client group

Ability to engage with a range of members and officers around the area of interest and listening to requirements

Ability to advocate on behalf of the area of interest within the council

In the Community

Understanding of the needs of the community in relation to the interest
Ability to engage with citizens and community groups in matters related to the interest.

Ability to lead and support local initiatives related to the interest.

Ability to represent the position of the council to the community in relation to the interest.

October 2012