



## Action Points from Llandybie Forum held on 17th March 2016

**1 Unsafe Hospital Discharges.** Members expressed concern at examples expressed of inappropriate and unsafe discharges including considerable pressure put on carers to accept the discharge of cared for people at difficult times including evenings and weekends. No services were provided on these occasions putting huge and unacceptable pressure on unpaid carers. It was strongly emphasised that carers can refuse discharges in such circumstances.

**2 Step down beds.** Support was given for the development of step down or convalescent beds for patients not yet fit to go home but not requiring the full range of hospital services. This would help avoid pressure to free acute hospital beds avoiding the distressing examples reported by carers

**3 Direct Payments.** Carers were reminded of the legal obligation of Social Services to make people being assessed aware of their right to be considered for direct payments. Carers as well as cared for are eligible to receive this help.

**4. Registering with GP Practices.** Encouragement was given to all carers to register with their local GP Practice. It is vital that GP's are aware of all the carers on their list. This allows them to understand the particular pressures facing carers and the potential effect of caring on physical and emotional health and well being. It also allows the GP Practices make special arrangements to support carers

**Carers Assessments** Carers were given another reminder of their legal right to seek a Carers Assessment from Social Services and to be persistent in chasing up delays through their local Councillor if necessary.

**Special Arrangements for the Cared For.** Carers were reminded that many public services, public bodies and private businesses will make special arrangements for customers with disabilities, illnesses and other conditions (and their carers). It is important to always let them know

**Respite Care.** Concern about lack of respite care arrangements is becoming more and more of a concern with local authorities too prepared to abandon their responsibility to support carers to have some respite from their caring responsibilities

### Continuing Health Care and Social Services Funded

**Care.** Reports were received of a worrying trend of "cost shifting" between the NHS and Local Authorities in terms of financial responsibility for the care of individuals. This is causing distress and confusion for carers and the people they care for.

**Carers Card.** The Carmarthenshire Carers Forum Card is becoming increasingly useful for carers seeking concessions and reductions for goods and services. Discussions are taking place with Carmarthenshire County Council to expand the use and development of the card.

**Social Services and Well Being Act.** The new Act comes into force on 1st April. This act should have particular benefits for carers . Carmarthenshire Carers Forum is organising a special meeting to discuss the likely effects of the Act for carers on 12th May ( 10.30-2.00) at the Antioch Centre , Llanelli with a buffet lunch and travel and care replacement expenses met. Those wishing to attend WILL NEED TO BOOK on 0300 0200 002 or email [admin@ccf.Wales](mailto:admin@ccf.Wales). Carmarthenshire Carers Forum can be found on Facebook or visit [www.ccf.wales](http://www.ccf.wales).

The Trustees of Carmarthenshire Carers Forum will be discussing the issues identified above and will take action where appropriate.