



Blackburn with Darwen  
**carers service**

# Parkinson's Disease

## The Carers Service assessment identified:

- Mr and Mrs T, a couple in their forties, heard about the Carer's service through word
- At the point at which they registered they were struggling to come to terms with a recent Parkinson's diagnosis for Mr T
- In addition to this Mr T had been caring for Mrs T for twenty years due to her own long term health diagnosis which has impacted on her mobility, respiratory system, sight, and major organs
- Mr T was struggling to receive the appropriate medical advice, was anxious and concerned about his current employment position, and his ability to manage emotionally, financially and physically
- Mrs T was also struggling to manage her complex health needs and the limitations on their lives together.
- Mr T stated that he felt that the service he had received from his doctor regarding his illness was very poor and wanted therefore to change doctors

## Co-ordinated support offered:

- Support provided to help Mr and Mrs T change their G.P. as requested by them
- Referred Mrs T to the community matron service for direct support in managing her respiratory illness, overseeing her medication, appointments, and treatment
- Obtained information regarding Mr T's illness from the Parkinson's society and referred him to ACAS for support with his employment issues
- Discussed counselling with Mr T as a means of coming to terms with his recent diagnosis and having the opportunity to be frank about his feelings in a confidential environment to which he agreed
- Discussed benefits entitlements – home visit arranged with the Carers service benefits adviser for assistance with completion of the form
- Encouraged Mr & Mrs T to consider a respite grant for a much deserved break from their current situation
- Advised them to consider trips that the Carers Service offer as transport is provided and driving has now become very difficult for Mr T who is the driver within the family
- Provided information on services within their local areas and via other services such as the well-being centre and YSYC – so that they can remain active
- In addition I was able to refer both Mr and Mrs T for three massages at a subsidised rate to give them a period of rest and relaxation

## Outcomes for carer:

- Mr and Mrs T changed their G.P., who, from the point of a new patient medical, have found a more efficient and effective service in respect of their health problems
- The community matron service responded very quickly to my referral and offered excellent ongoing support to Mrs T to manage her illness and treatment more effectively.
- Mr T used his information regarding his health diagnosis to respond differently in terms of how to adjust his lifestyle and work around the illness
- With support from the HR department and ACAS Mr T has been able to continue in employment with adjustments to his role and hours at this time
- Mr T was successful in securing PIP. This will offer him the opportunity to fund necessary transport, and therapies and services in respect of the Parkinson's disease.
- Both Mr and Mrs T have found therapeutic benefits from the massage offered
- Carers respite grant successful and are due to go on holiday with support from a member of their family. In addition they have started to enjoy trips out together with full transport
- Mr T said the counselling funded by the carers service has been extremely helpful emotionally
- Mr and Mrs T have said the support provided has been life-saving, especially in respect of the emotional and practical support of the carers adviser, the services offered 'in house', and the referrals to other relevant services who have supported in meeting their needs.

## What could the long term savings be because of this support:

- *Effectively reduce hospital admissions and appointments*
- *Effectively reduce claims for benefits due to staying in employment*
- *Effectively reduce social isolation and possible mental health issues*

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