



Blackburn with Darwen
carers service

Vascular Dementia and COPD

The Carers Service assessment identified:

- Jane* cares for her father Fred (84yrs) who lives with Vascular Dementia and COPD
- Jane visits dad every day, takes him shopping, try's to ensure he is safe at all times and looks after his finances. Jane said however she feels out of her depth as she didn't feel like she knew enough about dementia, or what to expect; she was concerned and extremely fearful of what the future was going to be for her dad, especially if she was unable to care for him for any reason. She had previously spoken to a Dementia Adviser and was armed with a folder full of information about the subject but still felt she needed more support
- Jane had Power of Attorney for her dad but didn't feel she had got to grips with the information and what her rights were, so again, she did not feel confident that she was supporting him in his best interest.

Co-ordinated support offered:

- Carers adviser explained about the processes for Social Services statutory assessments for carer and his dad, including respite vouchers and day care, so that he is informed and knows what to do to receive early help if he starts to feel he needs more support (preventing issues becoming a crisis by seeking early support)
- The Carers Adviser explained services in the area including DASH, Care Network and AgeUK
- Jane was informed about CRISP which is a course that gives deeper understanding around Dementia
- The adviser gave Jane a British Red Cross Form to complete and send off and this would reassure Jane that if she was taken ill, the British Red Cross would contact whoever Jane had delegated on the form or if there wasn't anyone else, Social Services would step in
- The adviser booked Jane onto the Carers Service Welfare/ Employment/Legal workshop to learn more about legalities
- The Adviser sent finance and property information around care and Dementia. Moreover 'End Of Life Care' documents
- The adviser gave information around trips and activities that the Carers Service offered

Outcomes for carer:

- Jane was more knowledgeable about services in the area and she had used the Care Network Service for plumbing for her dad
- The suggestion about the CRISP course encouraged Jane to book onto a course about Dementia which she could do in her own time therefore obtaining a deeper understanding around the subject

- Jane had sent the British Red Cross Form off and was now feeling reassured about the future
- Jane learnt a great deal from the legal workshop that the Carers Service had arranged
- The information that the Adviser sent around finances and care was very beneficial to Jane and felt more confident about the future
- Jane booked onto several Carers Service courses such as 'Introduction to Mindfulness' etc
- Through having more information carer now feels more enabled and empowered to continue in her caring role
- Jane felt pleased that the Carers Service was able to support her holistically and she said she now feels reassured and more confident in her role as a carer due to now feeling more informed, especially in regards to her dad's dementia, but also because of the knowledge that she now knows where to go if she needed support or further information.

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

- Carers feelings of fearfulness about the future were reduced due to the courses she attended around Dementia and the support she received from the Carer Advisor. This gave her more confidence and enabled her to support her father far more effectively, and will potentially prevent or defer support that may have been needed by health or social care services (care package/residential care)
- Carers relationship with cared for improved due to her improved understanding of Dementia learned from the courses she attended
- Through support provided the potential savings also include the carer not reaching any critical points whereby they themselves may have needed health services.

*Name changed

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