

## Emergency plans

If you care for someone but something happens and you can no longer provide that care, you need to have an emergency back-up plan, and a carer's card to identify that you are a carer and someone needs your help. We will help you design your plan and register it with the local authority so that it is accessible for the emergency services.

## Carers' Assessments

Under the Care Act all unpaid carers are entitled to an assessment of their own needs as a carer. The Carers' Partnership Assessment Guide will tell you everything you need to know about preparing for your assessment so that when we, or your local authority, comes to start the assessment, you will be fully prepared.

## Carers' Support Groups

If you would like to talk to and make friends with other unpaid carers, the Partners run a number of carers' support groups, some for all carers and some for carers with a particular focus, such as learning disabilities or dementia. Watch our website for details of dates and venues: [www.carerspartnership.org.uk](http://www.carerspartnership.org.uk)



**Reading Mencap:** charity No.1118287  
**Age UK Reading:** charity No.1103557  
**Age UK Berkshire:** charity No.1146462  
**CommuniCare:** charity No.1078694

## How to contact us

### Caring for a child or adult with a learning disability in Reading?

#### Reading Mencap

21 Alexandra Road, Reading RG1 5HP  
0118 926 3600  
[carers@readingmencap.org.uk](mailto:carers@readingmencap.org.uk)  
[www.readingmencap.org.uk](http://www.readingmencap.org.uk)

### Caring for someone aged 50+ in Reading?

#### Age UK Reading

Walford Hall, Carey Street, Reading RG1 7JS  
07716 418 941  
[carers@ageukreading.org.uk](mailto:carers@ageukreading.org.uk)  
[www.ageuk.org.uk/reading/](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/reading/)

### Caring for someone aged 50+ in West Berkshire?

#### Age UK Berkshire

Unit 119, Broad Street Mall, Reading RG1 7QA  
0118 959 4242  
[info@ageukberkshire.org.uk](mailto:info@ageukberkshire.org.uk)  
[www.ageuk.org.uk/berkshire/](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/berkshire/)

### For all other carers in both Reading and West Berkshire

#### CommuniCare

223 Kings Road, Reading RG1 4LS  
0118 926 3941  
[office@communicare.org.uk](mailto:office@communicare.org.uk)  
[www.communicare.org.uk](http://www.communicare.org.uk)



**Carers Partnership**  
Reading & West Berkshire



## the new service for carers

to help Reading and West Berkshire carers get the support they need



## Who are we?

We are a consortium of four local charities who have been commissioned by West Berkshire and Reading Local Authorities to provide services for unpaid carers across their area from November 2022. All the partners are embedded within their local communities where some have provided services for over 60 years. All partners have worked with carers long before we were commissioned, but we now have the mandate to shape carers' services in co-production with carers themselves. Age UK Berkshire and CommuniCare will provide commissioned services in West Berkshire, and Reading Mencap, Age UK Reading and CommuniCare will provide services in Reading. See our Partnership Website: [www.carerspartnership.org.uk](http://www.carerspartnership.org.uk)

## What services are we commissioned to provide?

All Partners are commissioned to provide information and advice, including support to make an emergency plan but, in Reading, we also offer Carers Assessments. In addition we can support carers to apply to other charities for grants towards things they need like a new washing machine, driving lessons, or a spa day.

## Additional services

All Partners are already providers of outreach information, advice and support to their own service users which also includes services for the cared for. Other services provided are day activity services, clubs, foot clinics, home from hospital services, benefits, shopping, gardening, handyman, specialist dementia services and much more. So, when you come to us as a carer, we look at your case with a 360 degree viewpoint.

## Working carers

Many carers are juggling their caring with employment, but as an unpaid carer you do have rights. Find out about your rights to additional unpaid leave under the new Carer's Leave Bill.

## Carers' health

Are you registered with your GP as an unpaid carer on their Carers' Register? This will ensure your GP knows that you are caring for someone and to make reasonable adjustments when you need a health or hospital appointment, or for vaccinations.

## Carers Allowance

If you are looking after someone for more than 35 hours a week you may be entitled to claim Carers Allowance. Ask us for details.

## Direct Payments

You may decide that you would like your cared for person's local authority budget to be paid direct to them in the form of a Direct Payment so that you and they can choose what service providers you use rather than relying on the provision that the local authority arranges for you. But you need to properly understand about exactly what that would involve. Speak to us and read our Direct Payment guide.



## Services for the future

We want to work with carers to find out what other services would help them to maintain their caring role. To that end we will survey carers to ask them what they would like us to look at.

## Where else will you find us?

We aim to work closely with the Royal Berks Hospital so that carers can find us on a weekly basis in the hospital. We will also present Carers' Rights Day and Carers' Weeks in prominent venues in Reading and West Berkshire — watch our newsletters for news.

