



### Carers – Staff Briefing

To all staff,

#### **Carers' Consultation**

At the end of November, a consultation, 'Carers and the Care Act in Devon', went live and is available to the public.

This will support work that is currently in progress to develop an offer for carers that will fulfil the requirements of the Care Act 2014.

Please take a moment to visit the consultation document here:

<https://new.devon.gov.uk/careactdevon/for-carers>

Where there is contact with a carer, they should be encouraged to visit the document online or otherwise contact Devon Carers' Voice (via Devon Carers) on **08456 434 435**.

Please direct all carer queries relating to the consultation to Devon Carers' Voice as they will be supporting this aspect of the process.

#### **Take-a-Break Scheme**

Work is in progress to develop an offer for carers that will fulfil the requirements of the Care Act 2014.

As a result the Take-a-Break scheme (including Flexible Breaks Grants) currently administered by Devon Carers has been proposed to cease from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

In practice this would mean that new applications for Take a Break will close by mid February 2015. However, no carer currently using Take a Break would be moved onto the new arrangements without an assessment and consideration of the impact of any change.

All carers who are current users of the Take-a-Break scheme will have now received a letter notifying them that this provision is under review.

If staff are asked by carers what provision will be available from April 2015 they should at this stage simply offer reassurance and encourage the carer to view the consultation document and/or contact Devon Carers' Voice on **08456 434 435**.

Full guidance will follow for staff about future arrangements to offer carer support.

If carers are concerned about their personal position please ask their consent to refer to Devon Carers and refer in as usual.

**Source:** Social Care Commissioning – Change Delivery