



STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Stockport 
Primary Care Trust

Stockport JSNA

joint strategic needs assessment

JSNA Digest - Carers

December 2007



JSNA – Digest for Carers

A carer is someone, who, without payment, provides help and support to a partner, child, relative, friend or neighbour, who could not manage without their help. This help could be needed because of age, physical or mental illness, addiction or disability.

Unpaid caring provides a large and invaluable resource input into health and social care services and in many instances carers can be seen as providers of services rather than clients. Taking on a caring role, however, can mean facing a life of poverty, isolation, frustration, ill health and depression and many carers give up an income, future employment prospects and pension rights to become a carer. Many carers also work outside the home and are trying to juggle jobs with their caring responsibilities.

Stockport has a statutory obligation to monitor and report on the provision of assessments and services to carers of clients. Additional support provided to carers of social care clients can prevent deterioration in a person's circumstances, improve their outcomes, and reflects central government agenda to support carers.

2001 Census – Levels of unpaid care

10% of Stockport's population (30,200 people) provide some unpaid care in an average week, a rate slightly higher than the national average. Around 8,500 people provide more than 20 hours of unpaid care a week; 5,600 of whom provide more than 50 hours. Rates of unpaid care are highest in Bramhall & Cheadle and Marple & Werneth despite the fact that these areas have lower levels of limiting long-term illness and poor general health.

550 (1%) of Stockport's child population (aged under 16 years) provide some unpaid care in an average week. The majority of child carers spend under 20 hours a week caring, however a significant number (80) provide more than 20 hours a week. Rates of unpaid care are similar across all areas; however levels are highest in Heatons & Tame Valley, the most deprived PBC locality.

4,000 (6%) of Stockport's young adult population (aged 16-34 years) provide some unpaid care in an average week. The majority of young adult carers spend under 20 hours a week caring, however a significant number (1,000) provide more than 20 hours a week. Rates of unpaid care are highest in Marple & Werneth (6.6%) and lowest in Bramhall & Cheadle (5.6%) where the rates caring for more than 50 hours are particularly low.

Around 18% (20,000) of Stockport's population aged 35-64 years provide some unpaid care in an average week, a rate much higher than for other age groups. Around 5,100 people provide more than 20 hours of care a week and 3,000 provide more than 50 hours. Rates are highest in Bramhall & Cheadle and Marple & Werneth despite the fact that these areas have lower levels of limiting long-term illness and poor general health.

Around 12% (5,600) of Stockport's population aged 65 years and above provide some unpaid care in an average week, a rate much lower than that of the 35-64 age group, but twice that of the young adults. Around 2,500 people provide more than 20 hours a week; at 5.5% this is higher than the rate for the 35-64 age group (4.4%); showing that this age group is the most likely to provide intensive care, probably of a partner towards the end of life. Rates are again highest in Bramhall & Cheadle and Marple & Werneth despite the fact that these areas have lower levels of limiting long-term illness and poor general health.

2001 CENSUS – ALL AGES – RESIDENT IN:						
Hours of unpaid care given a week:	Bramhall & Cheadle	Heaton & Tame Valley	Marple & Werneth	Stepping Hill & Victoria	Stockport	England & Wales
ALL AGES NUMBER						
None	65,302	61,374	46,543	81,124	254,343	49,236,232
1-19	6,341	4,585	4,412	6,240	21,578	3,347,530
20-49	813	685	548	926	2,972	530,797
50+	1,301	1,434	1,034	1,866	5,635	998,732
ALL AGES %						
None	88.5%	90.2%	88.6%	90.0%	89.4%	90.0%
1-19	8.6%	6.7%	8.4%	6.9%	7.6%	6.8%
20-49	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.1%
50+	1.8%	2.1%	2.0%	2.1%	2.0%	2.1%
AGED 0 – 15						
None	99.1%	99.0%	99.1%	99.2%	99.1%	-
1-19	0.7%	0.9%	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%	-
20-49	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	-
50+	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	-
AGED 16 – 34						
None	94.4%	93.9%	93.4%	93.8%	93.9%	-
1-19	4.5%	4.5%	5.0%	4.7%	4.7%	-
20-49	0.5%	0.5%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%	-
50+	0.6%	1.1%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	-
AGED 35 – 64						
None	81.4%	83.5%	81.7%	83.0%	82.4%	-
1-19	14.5%	12.0%	14.1%	12.1%	13.1%	-
20-49	1.8%	1.5%	1.8%	1.9%	1.8%	-
50+	2.2%	2.9%	2.4%	3.0%	2.7%	-
AGED 65+						
None	86.7%	88.3%	87.4%	88.3%	87.6%	-
1-19	8.2%	5.7%	7.1%	6.4%	6.9%	-
20-49	1.0%	1.3%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	-
50+	4.1%	4.7%	4.3%	4.2%	4.3%	-

Source: 2001 Census

If the patterns of care have remained stable since the 2001 Census then we can have predict that there will be around **600 additional** unpaid carers in the borough currently, and that by 2011 there will be almost a 1,000 more, an **increase of 300 over the next five years**. This rise in carers is almost entirely in the 65+ age group.

ESTIMATES OF THE NUMBER OF CARERS			
Age Group	2006	2009	2011
0 – 15 years	490	470	460
16 – 34 years	3,780	3,810	3,860
35 – 64 years	20,570	20,720	20,490
65 + years	5,960	6,130	6,300
All Ages	30,800	31,130	31,110

Source: Stockport PCT

Services for Carers

In the last year **adult social services** have offered assessments to 3,850 carers of adults. This represents 31% of all the clients on the books to receive a social care service. Of the 3,650 carers that accepted an assessment fewer than 10 were aged less than 18 years, 2,200 were aged between 18 and 64 years and 1,400 were aged 65 years and above.

The majority of the carers assessed, around 2,900, were caring for a person aged over 65:

- 93% of the cared for over 65 were physically disabled, frail or had a sensory impairment
- the remaining 7% had a mental health problem

We know that we don't accurately collect information on carers of older people with mental health problems so this group has certainly been under-represented in this analysis.

The other 700 carers who were assessed last year were caring for people aged 18-64:

- 52% of the cared for were physically disabled, frail or had a sensory impairment
- 37% had a learning disability
- 11% had a mental health problem

All carers receive information and advice following an assessment with identified needs taken into account deciding what action is required. In 2006/07 1,000 carers of adults received a break or carers' specific service as a consequence of an assessment (28% of assessed carers). Information on the nature of the service is not routinely collected but will often be respite care so that the carer can re-charge their batteries, relax and attend to their own lives.

Carers in Stockport also access community services without receiving a formal assessment through services delivered by voluntary organisations, funded by the LA via the carer's grant. These services are also available to carers of people whose needs are not deemed to be critical or substantial and therefore do not qualify to for social services. In 2006/07 1,950 carers accessed services funded by the carer's grant, and a total of 15,600 breaks services were delivered. The proportion of carers from BME groups accessing services was the same as the proportion of people from BME groups in the population of Stockport.

Carers accessing services via carer's grant, by client group of cared for:					
	Older People	Mental Health	Physical and Sensory Disability	Learning Disability	Young Carers
Number of carers	828	373	353	259	121
% of total	43%	19%	18%	13%	6%

580 carers have registered with the Stockport's Carecall service for a Carer's Emergency Alert Card. This enables carers to set up an action plan that can be put into place in an emergency, giving the carer and cared for person peace of mind.

In terms of community services for carers, SignPost Stockport offers information and support to carers of all ages in the borough. The services offered include a telephone helpline, Carelink (a free newsletter which has a mailing list of 4,500 carers and people working with carers in Stockport), advice and resources, outreach services and support group. Stockport also has a Young Carers Service and a Carers Breaks service, 24 people attended the most recent Carers Forum (October 2007) an event open to all carers.

37 children aged 0-15 years, 13 adults aged 25-64 years and 55 adults aged 65+ years were **admitted to hospital to provide holiday relief care** for their carers in 2006/07. The children were admitted frequently, on average about 20 times year in the year, and were usually admitted for just one night whereas adults were not admitted very frequently, on average only about 4 times year in the year but with a significantly longer average length of stay than children (usually seven nights). In total 2,556 days were spent in hospital as a result of holiday relief care.