

Gateway reference 10304

31 July 2008

Dear Colleague,

You are invited to attend an important event happening in your region, "**Supporting carers: everyone's responsibility**" which will focus on the National Carers' Strategy – "*Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities*" published on 10 June 2008.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_085345

Dates and venues of 9 regional events and how to register are overleaf.

The purpose of each event is to help create a common sense of purpose and foster collective responsibility to ensure that carers have the services they need in their caring role whilst being enabled to have a life outside caring. The event will do this through:

- Engaging with local partners in early thinking on the development of pilots to be initiated in 2009/10;
- Encouraging partnership working across the board, from health to housing, for carers;
- Sharing learning from models of good practice within regions.

With demand for care due to rise in the future, carers will become ever more important. Supporting carers is not a social service responsibility alone. It is everyone's responsibility and we need to work together to ensure that carers are supported so they can help meet this demand whilst remaining as active members of the community and the economy.

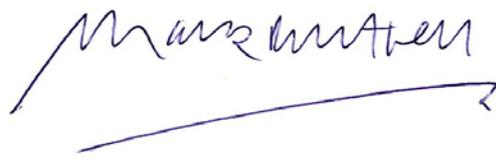
Dr Philippa Russell CBE, Chair of the Standing Commission on Carers, will open each event in which we hope to bring together senior managers and commissioners from a range of services, employers and strategic third sector representatives to help create the networks needed to ensure that the strategy is implemented to maximum effect.

If you are unable to attend the event please ensure that a relevant colleague attends on your behalf.

Yours sincerely,



David Behan
Director General
Social Care, Local Government,
Care Partnerships



Mark Britnell
Director General
Commissioning and
System Management

The dates and venues for each of the nine regional events are as follows:

- ❖ Monday 8 September Peterborough
- ❖ Monday 15 September Nottingham
- ❖ Wednesday 17 September York
- ❖ Monday 22 September Newcastle
- ❖ Wednesday 24 September Liverpool
- ❖ Friday 26 September Birmingham
- ❖ Thursday 2 October Gatwick
- ❖ Tuesday 14 October London
- ❖ Friday 17th October Plymouth

Information about the event and how to register can be accessed via the following link:

www.coievents.co.uk/carersstrategy.

You are advised to book early as places are limited. If you are selected to come along you will be notified at least a week prior to the event. A member of the COI Live Events team will send you a confirmation email with the day's agenda and the directions to the venue.

Please note that these events are free of charge. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. The event will start with registration at 9.15 am and will close at 3.30 pm.

Please do not hesitate to contact COI Live Events about any personal requirements that you may have, such as dietary or mobility needs by email carersstrategy@coi.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone on 0207 261 8400.