

# Swindon Carers Centre – supporting the Carers Week Quest



**Media Release – 23 April 2014 - For immediate use**

## **Carers Week - 09-15 June 2014**

Swindon Carers Centre is urging companies, community groups and individuals to be a part of something big this June - the greatest ever drive to reach out to carers across the UK.

Carers Week – a national event to raise awareness of issues affecting carers – takes place from 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> June. The Carers Week Quest is an exciting new way of involving members of the community and employers in supporting thousands of carers who are currently missing out on services.

There are currently 19,500 unpaid carers in Swindon (*Census 2011*) who look after an ill, frail or disabled family member or friend. The very nature of caring means very often people don't at first, or sometimes ever, identify themselves as carers. Without the right help and support caring can have a real impact on the physical and emotional health of carers and also on their finances.

We all have a role in helping carers know about the support and services on offer to them. This is why we are supporting the Carers Week Quest. Through this initiative we hope to:

- Reach out to carers in Swindon
- Encourage and help individuals and organisations to come together to improve how carers in Swindon are supported
- Support individuals and organisations to improve how they look after carers
- Encourage activities throughout Swindon during Carers Week – including fundraising for Swindon Carers Centre

Cath Johnston is Chief Executive of Swindon Carers Centre: "It's vitally important to continually highlight the work unpaid carers do in Swindon and Carers Week is a great opportunity for all of us to get involved. 1 in 8 of us is currently a carer - it could be you or me - and ensuring ongoing understanding and support for people of all ages in their caring role really does make a difference to them. To find out how you can help – please go to [www.carersweek.org/get-involved](http://www.carersweek.org/get-involved)."

**Ends**

*More follows...*

**For further information contact:**

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**Notes to editors**

- Carers Week is a UK-wide annual awareness campaign. Its aim is to improve the lives of carers and the people they care for
- Carers Week is supported by Carers Trust, Carers UK, Age UK, Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie Cancer Care, MS Society, Parkinson's UK, Independent Age and Skills for Care
- Swindon Carers Centre is part of the national network of the Carers Trust
- SCC offers help and support to people in Swindon who have caring responsibilities
- There are approximately 19,500 carers of all ages (including children and young people) in the Borough of Swindon and Swindon Carers Centre is available to provide them with much needed support, help and information

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