

# Statement from Swindon Carers Centre on hospital parking charges



02 November 2015: For immediate use

**“We would welcome any attempts by hospitals to minimise the impact of parking costs for carers. It can be very expensive and stressful for carers when they have to attend multiple appointments with the person they care for. Unpaid carers across the country save the economy £119 billion per year (an average of £18,473 per carer) and they should not be penalised for providing this vital care to their loved ones.”**

Figures from Carers UK show:

- More than 3 million people juggle care with work, however the significant demands of caring mean that 1 in 5 carers are forced to give up work altogether.
- The main carer's benefit is £59.75 for a minimum of 35 hours, equivalent to £1.71 per hour – far short of the national minimum wage of £6.19 per hour.
- People providing high levels of care are twice as likely to be permanently sick or disabled
- 625,000 people suffer mental and physical ill health as a direct consequence of the stress and physical demands of caring.

## Ends

**For more information contact:**

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## Notes to editors

- Swindon Carers Centre is part of the national network of the Carers Trust and is also affiliated to Carers UK
- 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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